

Throughout the Scriptures, when different personalities are confronted with God's Word, both heart and mind are stirred. We have examples of minds and hearts being stirred. The Truth does that; "In History and God's Word, the Truth should be held Sacred, at whatever Cost!"

Today in our liturgical worshipping service, we celebrate the 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time. In glancing over the readings, the Alleluia verse caught my immediate attention," Your word, O Lord is truth; consecrate us in the truth". This is striking and electrifying; striking because it is the foundational part of our life and electrifying because it should add energy and light as we live each day hopefully with positive lived daily experiences. All of us realize there are many people and issues that challenge and tug at us to live otherwise. My heart goes out to Eldad, Medad who were identified as ones who were names were on the list but were absent from the tent, yet the spirit came upon them, and the person identified by the Apostles in the gospel who was driving out demons in your name, (Jesus' name) and we tried to prevent him, Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him"!

One of the great insights of the heart is this: we see things not as they are but as we are! What Joshua failed to see was this, that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them! In the gospel Jesus informs the Twelve and elaborates by saying no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who at the same time speak ill of me. Today's gospel informs us that whatever hinders us from the Kingdom eradicate from experiences and our life. If they do not enhance our life and the quality of our life they should be eradicated. **FOR WHOEVER IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US!**

In our current living climate, our hearts affirm, the simple statement, we do not see things as they are but as we are. Secondly truth is the most important gift we have because it understands that reputation can enhance a person's person life or destroy, (the reputation could be true or not) but our integrity gives us the truth about self, (self-truth), this is the internal compass that lets us know whether we are in or out of truth. This is what Solomon asked for and that is what we ask for in our lives today, more than ever before. Today when something is unjust and an unjust person sees it, but he thinks he is just, what he sees then is just. Another critical example today would be lying. If a person, who is a liar, knows something is true and that person is a pathological habitual liar, he will say it is a lie. A classic example of this took place in our most recent presidential election is still going on in our political area today.

Truth is the gift Jesus promised the Apostles and shares with us. Truth is our challenge today in our own personal life, because when we live in truth we live in His Word, it is foundation of our life. Pilate asked Jesus what is Truth? There is no verbal answer from Jesus, his answer comes from both the example of his life and his proclamation to the Apostles; that he would be arrested, crucified and rise from the dead; that is his truth and in our religious experience, we experience, **HIS WORD IS HIS BOND.**

Today, in reading St. John, then reflecting on Dr. King, Mother Theresa, Henriette de Lil, and our own life, this week let us pray, that we continue to strengthen our belief and realization that the truth sets us free internally, but externally we may be hemmed in, restricted, poor, and marginalized but possess an internal freedom that one day we will share eternal, that is to know and encounter Our Heavenly Father!

The people that Jesus meets in the New Testament, He stirs their Hearts and Mind! This week count when He stirs your heart and when He stirs your mind! Identify them, they may be a challenge to each of us if we resolve, change this, invests in this, share this, then I do like King David, I want only kindness and goodness in my life.