

As my heart glimpses over the Weekday and Sunday readings from August 8, 2021 to August 22, 2021, the recurring themes of anger, frustration, hopelessness, disappointment, faith, momentary conversion, evil, betrayal, the struggles of Moses, God's anger but his commitment to save his people and finally the Israelites' anger both at God and Moses, During this saga, one responsorial psalm, the people realized that the hand of the Lord feeds them and He gave them bread from heaven, (manna)! During this section, the Chosen People experienced both light and darkness.

As the Israelites journey and continued to travel they experienced and saw how Moses is aging, how he has mentored Joshua and how God has punished one of his most deserving and faithful servants. Instead of speaking to the rock as instructed, he struck the rock twice. The punishment he incurs in doing this is "you will not enter the Promise Land"! This punishment seems brutal and harsh. This is how it is described in the Book of Deuteronomy, "The Lord said to Moses, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I let you feast your eyes upon it, but you shall not cross over"! For thirty days the children of Israel mourned Moses, when they had completed the period of grief and mourning for Moses.

Some of the above, many have experienced or may be experiencing at the present moment during this virus, its variant and the turmoil at the present moment in our country, yet we are asked, "If today you hear his harden not your Heart"!

At this juncture on their journey, the Israelites had a change of leadership, a smooth transition of power. Joshua who was mentored Moses is now the new leader. In Joshua 3: 7-10a, 11, 13-17, the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel that they may know I am with you as I was with Moses"! In accepting his position, he addressed the community in the following words, (first public new conference, "If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"! Then, the people responded we will serve the Lord! (Joshua 3: 7-10a, 11, 13-17)!

Recently we had a National Election. Often the T V sound bites would question, will we have a smooth transition of power? Indications led us to believe we would. History indicated we would do it smoothly, that is the American way. The election results indicated we had a New President, Majority of the Popular Votes, The Electoral College Votes, The Decisions of the Supreme Court, and The Secretary of States with their Officials for Vote Counting, The Lower Courts and the **WORLD!** But January 6, 2021 proved us wrong, now bits and pieces of corruption are gradually leaking out. We are not amazed because, pride, not being able to accept defeat, greed, power, control, corruption, and arrogance are being exposed on the world's stage, "**THE BIG LIE**"!

Today living the truth, is a challenged because some time truth is a freeing painful experience for all of us, the Apostles, the World, the Church, States, Communities, Families, and all of Us. It is the gift that sets us free. Truth is based on light, integrity, and God's grace. Truth is not based on reputation. In one of his books, Tony Dungy puts it this way, "Integrity is what you do when no one is watching; it is doing the right thing all the time even it may work to your disadvantage. Integrity is that internal compass. Some think integrity and reputation are the same, they are not. Your reputation is public perception of your integrity. Because it is other people's opinion of you, it may be true or false. Others determine your reputation, but only you determine your integrity."!

I would like to close this vignette with the following excerpt, from a book that I am currently reading, "Lies My Teacher Told Me". This quote is taken from a Native American who asked his Leader around the time of Christopher Columbus, why do the Spaniards hate them? Hearing the Spaniards were coming, (the cacique—leader) gathered all of his people together to remind of the persecutions that the Spanish had

inflicted on the people of Hispaniola: “Do you know why they persecute us? They replied: “They do it because they are cruel and bad”. “I will tell you why they do it”, the cacique stated, “and it is this—because they have a lord whom they love very much, and I will show him to you”. He held us a small basket made from palms full of gold and he said, “Here is there lord, whom they serve and adore—to have this lord, they make us suffer, for him they persecute us, for him they killed our parents, brothers, all our people...Let us not hide this lord from the Christians in any place, for even If we hide it in our intestines, they would get it out of us; therefore let us throw it in this river, way under and they will not know where it is.

WHEREUPON THEY THREW THE GOLD INTO THE RIVER!!!!!!!!!!
FOR US TODAY BIG MONEY IS BACKINGTHE BIG LIE TO STOP JUSTICE AND
EQUALITY FROM
BECOMING AS REALITY FOR ALL OF US, BECAUSE WE KNOW JUSTICE IS HUMAN
AND
INJUSTICE IS INHUMAN!