

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church

Saturday, May 6, 2023

-- Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter

First Reading: Acts 13:44-52

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.*"

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm. *R/.*

The Lord has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. *R/.*

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise. *R/.*

Gospel: John 14:7-14

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to Jesus, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know



me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

Reflection

If you know me, then you will also know my Father. (John 14:7)

Everything seems to have an instruction manual these days. Even earbuds come with directions! It seems that the disciples were looking for a how-to manual too as they asked Jesus to show them the Father (John 14:5, 7). Jesus answered their questions, though perhaps with a sigh: "Have I been with you for so long?" Methods, procedures, and checklists are not the best way to know God. Jesus is: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (14:9). If we know Jesus, we will know his Father.

So how do we get to know Jesus? We spend time with him — and we listen. Jesus told his disciples, "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27). We are part of his flock, and we can expect to hear from him when we sit in his presence. So try going someplace where you can be undisturbed. Withdraw — not to get instructions, but to connect more personally with him.

You can start by getting away from the computer, the phone, and your to-do list. Take a deep breath and focus your heart on Jesus and his love. Turn to him and pray, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). Then open your Bible and read — maybe today's Mass readings. Or you may want to just sit in silence and listen for his voice speaking to your heart. Or when you are able, you could go to Adoration and worship him in the Blessed Sacrament.

As you listen, thoughts may arise that encourage you, comfort you, or gently correct you. He might tell you something new about himself or simply touch you with his love. Jot down what you're hearing so that you don't forget. Thank Jesus for sharing his heart with you and helping you know him better.

This is how you can connect with Jesus. This is how you can get to know him. And knowing him, you will know his Father as well. Because you don't learn about God by following a manual. You come to know him by spending time with his Son, Jesus.

Jesus, show me the Father as I turn to you.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.