



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

May 2022

The Promise

We are in the Easter glow. We have just celebrated Mercy Sunday. Once more we are invited to stand with mouths open in wonder at what the resurrection of Jesus means for each of us.

We remember marveling in the past as we watched Star Trek when we heard the words, “Beam me up, Scotty!” Sci-fi worked its wonders when the human in the spaceship reappeared on the planet surface. We were watching a physics which we knew didn’t yet exist transport humans from one place to another. But this Easter season brings us a pledge of what does already exist. What does the risen Jesus, seen by over five hundred people, come to tell us? He comes to give us the first glimpse of a promise.

The risen Jesus is no ghost. He is a transformed human, wounds shining like badges of honor. He reveals a physics we know nothing of yet, a physics of what self-giving love does to the human being. He gave a glimpse of this to Peter, James, and John in the Transfiguration, when they could barely look at him for the brilliance. For just a while the veil lifted and they were shown the beauty of who they were dealing with. But then came the suffering, and that has the habit of dousing wonder and joy. But the resurrection was permanent. The veil was gone - forever. He was making them, and us, a promise. As he is so shall we be, because that is what love does. It makes you beautiful.



Is it you - really?

And it will be me...really?

Then the struggle is worth it.

I have your word for it.

Thank you to Associate Michael Burroughs for the May Reflections.

May 1 - John 21: 1-19

Peter goes fishing in the Sea of Tiberius with a few disciples. They fish unsuccessfully all night. In the morning, Jesus appears, shouting to re-cast their net, with then a catch so large they struggle with it. Finally, they recognize Jesus. Peter jumps into the water, hurrying to Jesus. The others bring in the boat, and Jesus cooks them breakfast of fish and bread on the beach. Jesus asks Peter the important question of a disciple: "Do you love me?" Three times he asks this question, and Peter keeps affirming his love. Jesus tells him three times to care for His sheep. Finally, he commands Peter as well as us all, "Follow me."

May 8 - John 10: 27-30

Jews are gathering around Jesus in the Temple area asking him when he will plainly tell them he is the Christ. He reminds them that he has been doing so through the performance of miracles in his Father's name. Then he goes a step further and tells them they don't believe him because they are not his sheep. His sheep listen to his voice. He knows them and they follow him. He gives them eternal life and no one can snatch them out of his hand. His Father has given his sheep to him. He and the Father are one. Isn't it a comfort and joy to know that Jesus has his eternal hand firmly on us and we can never be taken away from his loving grip? Yes! Comfort and Joy. Thank you, Jesus!

May 15 - John 13: 31-35

Jesus is telling his disciples that his remaining time with them is short and that where he is going they cannot come. He gives them a new command: Love one another as he has loved them. By this all will know that they are his disciples. What a simple command. Estimates are that there are approximately two billion people on Earth who wear the mantel of Christian. How many more believers would there be if we all demonstrably loved one another. The life we live is the lesson we teach. Actions speak louder than words. That's the best way to preach salvation.

May 22 - John 14: 23-29

Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone loves him they will obey his teaching. Then he gives them a glorious promise: If they (we) obey his teaching, his Father and he will love them (us) and come to make their home with them (us). Imagine what it must have been like for the disciples on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on them with glory and power. On that day, he said, they will realize that he is in his Father, his followers are in him and he is in them. It just doesn't get any better than that! He and the Father dwell in us. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and with that indwelling and power comes responsibility. In an earlier verse he said: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have done. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

May 29 - John 17:21-26

He continues along the theme of his promise in John 14. He prays for all believers. He asks the Father that all those who hear and believe the message may be one as he and the Father are one. Jesus has given them the same glory that the Father gave to him, saying: "I in them, and you in me." May they be in the Father and in the Son so the world may believe that the Father sent him. He reminds them that the Father loved him before the creation of the world. The Holy Spirit who dwells in us has given us the knowledge, the wisdom, and the boldness to speak these truths.