

March 12, 2024

Homily notes for 4th Sunday: cycle B

Gospel: John 3:14-21

*In those days people added infidelity to infidelity - Yet those in darkness who did not forget God's mercy are brought into the light and shown His Mercy - So much does God love those exiled in the world that, "He gave His only begotten Son" - He sent us the Light - A person who is Love - A Love which shows us Truth - A Truth that opens us up to the true forms and structure of life in God.*

"And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light...But whoever seeks the truth comes into the light." In the Scriptures, particularly John, is this theme: the contrast of Light & Darkness.

This theme reminds me of three things:

1. Plato's Republic: The Allegory of the Cave. Living in a cave the people's perception of reality was created by the shadows of the forms created by a fire. Then they were led outside the cave and realized their lives were no longer just shadows projected on the wall of a cave. Now they could see the actual Form of the Objects themselves in perfect detail in the fullness of the Light of the sun.

2. Looking at a camp area when it is dark out: In the darkness, I can see the outline of the Objects in the shadows, but not until we are in the Light can we see the smallest detail of the forms, and then realize we got some forms just plain wrong because of the shadows we thought were real and true. The eyes deceived us.

3. What is our true Nature: There is much confusion today as to the proper form/structure of the Human Person, as Unique, Exceptional, Valued, Sacred, Bodies that can participate in God. Bodies not totally depraved, God created us to know and experience Goodness. Many teens today do not know they are special and unique, that their lives have meaning and they are WORTHY of Love. I've experienced that lie and it's a tragedy.

Why did Jesus come? To smite and punish us? To work out His anger issues? No, purely out of love for you, to restore us to the truth of what we were meant to be. When we trust ourselves to God's Providence, not worrying what God will ask of us, God will restore us. For those who are not afraid of vulnerability, who are not afraid to give God control, God will shine light to help us see the truth of reality. Without God's light we live in a shadow world created by our sins and blindness due to hurts and wounds experienced in this life.

When we are not afraid to give control of our lives to the Lord, He will shed light in areas that were in darkness and confusion, whether from numbness due to habitual sins, or blindness due to a deep hurt or wound. He will give us light and healing.

Vivat Jesus,

Father Vic Gournas