

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, for the last few weeks, I have been teaching and preaching about the authority of the Scriptures, and the Truth of the four Gospels. In the Ancient World, they were written in an ancient style of writing called: Bios in Greek, or Vitae, in Latin. These words both meant the same thing: the life of a very important person. They were always reliable in the content; and so, even if they are not written like contemporary history books, like: The Killing of Japan, or, the Killing of Lincoln; nonetheless, they are true biographies of the Lord Jesus, written or dictated by the Apostles, Matthew, and John, and dictated by Peter to Mark and by Paul to Luke, (and some ancient traditions tell us that Luke learned of the infancy of Jesus from Mary herself. So why is this important to know? Because the truth of the Gospels and their authority have been so severely doubted by our times, and that has caused great confusion in our time!

The Gospel of Mark is told from this assumption from its very beginning: The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus was not just a very important person; He was and is God-Become-Man, in order to destroy the influence and the armies of the devil, to liberate us from the consequences of sin and death, and to enable the fallen human race to find its way back to God and our original Divine, human dignity! All of that, is contained in just this first sentence in the Gospel, and everything is an unfolding of this one truth!

Jesus' humanity was and is infused with the power of His Divine Person. This is the meaning of the miraculous cure of Peter's mother-in-law! This was a sickness unto death- probably malaria. He takes her by the hand and raises her up- the same word used for the Resurrection! Previous to this story, Jesus was teaching with Divine Authority, and by the same authority, casts out a demon by His Divine Word alone; now, He heals and casts out the demons with the same Divine Power and Authority! This is the first teaching of this Gospel for us today: Know and Believe Who Jesus is! He is God in the Flesh and has come to save us from the evil one, from sin, and from death!

Nonetheless, Jesus was also thoroughly human, just as He was thoroughly Divine. He experienced and needed to seek out His Divine Intimacy with the Father. He

felt His need to pray, and sought substantial time in solitude for prayer. This is the second teaching of this Gospel, remember, the Gospels are authoritative: Jesus teaches us that if we want intimacy with God, we must put in the time to seek it and to be alone with Him!

Finally, the Gospel teaches us that very meaning of Jesus Christ, is that He is for us, He is with us, He is always walking with us, and if we allow Him, He is always working through us! Our society is built on hyper-individualism, sometimes we call it: the society of me myself and I! We are surrounded by it, and these attitudes seep into us. Today, Jesus wants to heal us from the wounds of sin and death that generate these attitudes and leave us sick unto death in a sick unto death society! We need a Savior- we will find Him, like the apostles in this gospel, if we sincerely seek Him; and He will send us to bring His good news to others who are sick and need Him as well!