

## Third Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel tells us the story of how our Lord came to His disciples, when they were gathered in the Upper Room. It stresses important aspects of our Christian Faith.

It stresses the reality of the Resurrection. The risen Lord was no phantom, ghost or hallucination. He was real. The Jesus who died was in truth the Christ who rose again. Christianity is not founded on the dreams of man's disordered minds, or the visions of their fevered eyes, but on One who, in actual historical fact, faced, fought, and conquered death and rose again.

It stresses the necessity of the cross. It was to the cross that all the Scripture's prophets of the Psalms looked toward. The cross was not forced on God; it was not an emergency measure when all else had failed and when the scheme of things had gone wrong. It was part of the plan of God, for the cross is the one place on Earth, where in a moment of time, we see the eternal love of God.

It stresses the urgency of the task. Out to all people had to go the call to repentance and the offer of forgiveness. The days of sorrow were past and the tidings of joy must be taken to all people.

It stresses the secret of power. The disciples had to wait in Jerusalem until power from on high came upon them, until Pentecost had come.

There are times when we seem to be wasting time, why we must wait in wise passivity. There is a time to wait on God and a time to work for God.

A certain woman, a housewife, writes of the days when life is a time to work for God. She wrote, "I wrestle, oh how I wrestle through the hours!" Not with principalities and powers-not with dark spiritual foes of God's and man's; but with antagonistic pots and pans; with footmarks on the hall; with smears upon the wall; with doubtful ears and small unwashed hands and with a babe's innumerable demands.

And then even in the business, she lays aside her work to be for a moment with God. She goes on to say, "With kisureed feet and idle hands, I sit. I, foolish, fussy, blind as any bat, sat down to listen and to learn. And lo, my thousand tasks were done the better so."

The quiet times in which we wait on God are never wasted time, for it is in the time when we

lay aside life's tasks that we are strengthened for the very tasks we laid aside.

Not ever matter that we bring before God will necessarily require that we spend the whole night praying over it, but why shouldn't God be involved in every detail of our life by opening our life to Him in prayer? Besides us our minds, the advice of friends and counselors, why not let God have a say about what matters to us.

In the hustle and bustle of daily activities we are unaware of what is deepest. It is only in waiting, in prayer, in silence--of tongue of thought that we begin to perceive what is habitually present.

Prayer is not separable from our trust in God. We know God love us and is out for the best for all creation. When we pray we are expressing that trust.

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