

Week 5 - October 14, 2020

Today's reflection looks at the very last story in the Gospel of Matthew after the resurrected Jesus has reunited with his disciples. Imagine believing Jesus was gone forever. He had been killed and would never come back. And then miraculously he did come back! He defeated death, itself and returned to his friends! In our reading for today we are looking at what Jesus tells his apostles to do once he leaves them. He'll be ascending to Heaven and it is up to them to continue his mission around the world.

The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 28, Verses 16 - 20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, **“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**

Reflection

Jesus tells his followers to **“make disciples of all nations.”** What does it mean to make someone a disciple? **What does it mean to be a disciple?**

Jesus tells his followers to baptize. **What happens when we are baptized? Why do you think it is important to Jesus that others be baptized?** For parents: Why did you choose to baptize your children?

What commands does Jesus want his apostles to teach people? How can you teach people to live the way Jesus taught?

The apostles were amazed to see Jesus resurrected. They worshipped him but they also had doubts. What doubts do you think they had? If you were in their position how would you feel about seeing Jesus alive and well even though you know he was killed on the cross?

For 2000 years the bishops of the Catholic Church have continued the mission Christ gave his apostles here. They still teach, baptize, make disciples for Christ, and proclaim the resurrection. What are some of the ways the Catholic Church carries out this mission today?

Finally, Jesus tells the apostles **“I am with you always.”** If Jesus is leaving them to ascend to heaven, how can he always be with them? Do you think Jesus is always with you?

Re-read the gospel story and reflect on the mission Jesus gave the apostles. As you read it again, think about if you share this mission with them and how that mission can be accomplished in the world today? What can you do to help the mission? Finally, pray together this prayer that priests or deacons recite during the Baptism of a child into the Church.

“This is the fountain of life,
Water made holy by the suffering of Christ,
Washing all the world.
You who are washed in this water
Have hope of heaven’s kingdom.”