

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 3.27.24 (for 3.31.24)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will
make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged
wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged
wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all
peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord God will wipe away tears
from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will
take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited
for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his
salvation.”

- 1) Isaiah writes a prophesy that was about how God fulfills His promises. How do these words Isaiah shares still inspire hope in what God will do for us?
- 2) Isaiah opens this passage speaking about what God will do “for all peoples.” How should God’s work affect the way we look, speak, and interact with others?
- 3) What descriptive words does Isaiah use throughout this passage? Which one stands out to you the most?

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last

of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

- 1) Paul shares here the heart of the Christian message. What is it?
- 2) Why does Paul share the factuality of the Gospel to be around eyewitnesses?
- 3) Paul makes himself the least of the messengers. What overall point is he trying to make by saying this?

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary

stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

- 1) There are four stages that lead to belief: impossibility, fact-checking, encounter, and commitment. Where do we see this pattern in this text?
- 2) Why do the disciples head back to their homes while Mary lingers?
- 3) The first person to see and share the news of Jesus' resurrection was a woman who once was broken but had been healed by Jesus. She is now used to be the first eyewitness and proclaimer. How does Mary's joy for what God has done encourage and inspire you?