Thursday of the Second Week of Easter

Gospel text (*Jn* 3:31-36): The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life"

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Today the Gospel invites us to stop being "earthly," to stop being men who only talk about worldly things, to speak and move like "the one who comes from above" (Jn 3:31), who is Jesus. In this text we see—once again—that in evangelical radicalism there is no middle ground. Always and in all circumstances, it is necessary to strive to have the thought of God, to aspire to have the same feelings as Christ, and to aspire to look at men and circumstances with the same gaze of the Word made man. If we act like "the one who comes from above" we will discover the many positive things that continually happen around us, because God's love is a continuous action in favor of man. If we come from above, we will love everyone without exception, our life being an invitation to do the same.

"The one who comes from above is above all" (Jn 3:31), and for this reason He can serve every man and every woman in exactly what they need; furthermore, "He testifies to what he has seen and heard" (Jn 3:32). And his service is free of charge. This attitude of serving without expecting anything in return, without needing the response of the other, creates a profoundly human environment and respect for the free will of the individual; this attitude is contagious and others feel freely moved to respond and act in the same way.

Service and witness always go together, one and the other are identified. Our world needs that which is authentic: what is more authentic than the words of God? What is more authentic than the one who "does not ration his gift of the Spirit" (Jn 3:34)? This is why "whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy" (Jn 3:33).

“To believe in the Son” means to have eternal life, it means that Judgment Day does not weigh on the believer because he has already been judged and with a favorable judgment; on the other hand, “whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him" (Jn 3:36) ..., as long as he does not believe.

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “What, I ask, is more wonderful than the beauty of God? What thought is more pleasing and satisfying than God’s majesty? The radiance of the divine beauty is altogether beyond the power of words to describe.” (Saint Basil the Great)

- “Obedience, often leads us down a path which isn’t the one we think it should be: there is another, the obedience of Jesus who says to the Father in the Mount of Olives: ‘Thy will be done’.” (Francis)

- “Believing in Jesus Christ and in the One who sent him for our salvation is necessary for obtaining that salvation. Since ‘without faith it is impossible to please (God)’ (Heb 11:6) and to attain to the fellowship of his sons (...).” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nº 161)