

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 5/26/19**

### **Making Spirit-filled Decisions**

Jesus calls us to be a people who abide in his word. He says, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words”. Keeping Jesus’ words means we are willing to ask ourselves, does God’s word permits this or that to be done?

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles presents us with one of the main challenges that confronted the early Church. It was about the issue of circumcision – the law of circumcision required all Jewish males to be circumcised in order to be members of the covenant and to belong to ‘the people of God.’ Now, the question was whether the gentiles or non-Jewish people who were becoming believers in the early Christian community, needed circumcision also or not in order to become members of Christ’s body? How they resolved this problem offers a paradigm for the Church of today. They prayed, discerned in the Holy Spirit and dialogued together. The outcome was a decision that could stand the test of time. One that resolved the issue successfully and preserved the unity of the Church. Their decision was to ask the gentiles to keep the basics, namely, to avoid any fellowship with idols, meats of strangled animals and unlawful marriage or immorality. Is this reading applicable to us today? How do we take decisions as individuals, church and society? How often do we implore the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment and decisions? There are times when we get everything right about our decisions except the most important part: What is the Spirit saying to us? What does God’s word say?

In our second reading, St. John observed that the holy city has no more temple, “for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb.” The holy city needed no lamps to light its streets because the lamb is the light of the city. The ‘divine logos’ shines upon it. As members of God’s holy city, the eternal light that must guide our steps is the word of God. Psalm 119: 105 says ‘your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path. ‘Let us make the effort to walk in the word of God (the written word and the magisterium). That is what will help us navigate whatever challenges we may face as individuals and as a Church.

The Gospel calls us not only to walk in the word of God, but also and very importantly seek the Holy Spirit who will help the followers of Christ to walk in the path of the savior. Walking in the word of God does not guarantee in any way a smooth-sailing through life. There will be those challenging moments like the one recounted in the first reading. A kind of a make or break moment, but through it all let us learn to seek him and ask for his help. Our decisions are very much part of our Christian commitments. Do we allow the Holy Spirit to direct us to choose the best for our redemption? Let us think about these words of scripture today.