

The Truth Will Set You Free

At the end of today's Gospel reading, there is a beautiful moment that we could easily miss if we are not attentive to the wisdom of divine scriptures.

Jesus has just completed his great sermon on the Bread of Life. In this sermon, he definitively reveals the mystery of the Eucharist. He teaches us that we must eat his body and drink his blood if we want to have eternal life. In this sermon, he reveals the depth of his love and the profound gift that would be given at the Last Supper and then consummated by his crucifixion on the cross.

At the end of this great sermon, we hear a surprising response from some of his disciples. St. John tells us very succinctly that some of Jesus' disciples doubted, "This is a hard saying. Who can accept it?" The Gospel of John then summarizes the sad decision of some who heard Jesus' words: "as a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."

Do you see what happened? Jesus taught them the truth. He taught them the mystery of the Eucharist and revealed the depth of his love. But some people left Jesus simply because the teaching of Jesus was "difficult." I feel sad for those people. They heard the truth from the lips of the very Lord of all creation – but they could not accept it, simply because it was too "difficult." Imagine what they missed! Think of the many miracles that they never saw because they stopped walking with Jesus. Consider the inner contentment that they failed to achieve because they thought Jesus' teaching was too hard. Think of the moment of the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit that they missed – because the Gospel was too "difficult."

Sadly, the same thing happens today with many, many Christians. The Holy Roman Catholic Church teaches the TRUTH of Jesus Christ – but many stop attending mass or leave the faith simply because the teaching of the Church is.... "Too difficult." In our world, people are missing out. They do not know the joy and the comfort of a community of faith because they walk away. My dear friends, I implore you to embrace the **totality** of our holy Faith. Although the teachings of the Church are difficult – they are also life! We cannot accept **some** teaching of the Church and reject **others**. To reject any teaching of the Church is to reject Jesus' action in our lives. Open your hearts to Jesus and say "YES" to the totality of the teachings of the Church so that you may receive the Spirit who is life.

Peace,

Fr. David Kime