

Homily June 21<sup>st</sup> Deacon John Meyers, S.J.

What are some of the things that cause you to worry?

What are you afraid of?

If you're like me, you may be afraid of losing someone who's close to you. You may be afraid of losing control of what happens next in your life. Or you may be worried about your declining health. Or there's smaller things. We may be worried about what other people think of us, or about losing that certain possession. It's so natural. It happens to all of us.

What, however, are your spiritual worries? What are you afraid of in your spiritual life? When Jesus sent the initial 12 out after all the preparation, the meals, the instruction, the guidance, he tells them not to fear anyone. Those are powerful words because we know that, like Jesus, the disciples will face persecution, trials, and some of them martyrdom. But he's also offering them a warning of spiritual worries, and by spiritual, I mean that which happens to our soul.

When we worship false gods, we become occupied with small things, small G-gods. It's those moments that Jesus is warning us about. I know for myself, there's possessions that steal up lots of my time and for that, I'm not so proud. Or other times, we worry about what people think of us, and we get anxious if suddenly they don't approve of us, and then we feel more isolated. So, we worship possessions, we worship people, and sometimes we might even worship ourselves, and in these cases, we heed Jesus' words. Beware of spiritual worries.

The good news for you and I today is that Jesus' cross, death, and resurrection has victoriously won out and he can cast out any of these fears, so long as we are open to it. Those hairs on your head are counted. No matter how small or large the fear, Jesus and God, they know it. And they care about it. The love for which we gather today happened through a spiritual victory and it will cast out all of those false worships. And those words in the gospel from Jesus, to proclaim on the housetops that which you heard in silence, or in quiet. Speak those truths in the light. So, when we are healed of our false worships, through opening ourselves to God and the love of God that we proclaim as Christians, we not only hold on to that and savor that, but we also share that with others so that they too can see that God casts out all false worship.

So lastly, in a particular way today, we thank and appreciate those father figures in our life, who modeled for us: courage, spiritual courage, to face those falsehoods in our lives. We

thank the fathers who have gifted us with some small glimpse of our heavenly father. My brothers and sisters, be afraid of false Gods. Small G- gods. Cast your fears onto Jesus. For he loves us tenderly and mercifully.