

Homily for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

St. John Chrysostom was born in Antioch around 347 and was raised by a devout Christian mother. He became one of the greatest Fathers and Doctors of the Church, renowned for his powerful preaching, deep biblical insight, and courageous defense of the faith.

One he was summoned before the Roman *Emperor Arcadius* and threatened with banishment. **St. John Chrysostom** replied, *“You cannot banish me, for the world is my Father’s house.”*

Emperor Arcadius became furious after hearing this and said, *“Then I will kill you,”* Again St. John Chrysostom retorted Chrysostom *“No, you cannot, because my life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

The Emperor Arcadius replied grimly, *“Your treasures shall be confiscated”*. The St. John Chrysostom *“Sir you can’t do that because my treasures are in Heaven as my heart is there.”*

Then the Emperor threatened, *“I will drive you from your people, and you shall have no friends left”*. **St. John Chrysostom** said, *“That you cannot do either, because, I have a Friend in Heaven Who has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you’”*.

If St. John Chrysostom could speak with such confidence and broadly, because his faith was rooted not in earthly security, but in the promises of Christ.

This Sunday Jesus tells us in today’s Gospel **“Do not let your hearts be troubled, in my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”** This gives us the same assurance and confidence.

Jesus speaks these words on the night of the Last Supper, a moment of darkness, confusion, and fear for the disciples. He knows what is coming His passion, the

scattering of the apostles, their sorrow and gives them the assurance they need most.

Like Chrysostom, Jesus invites us to live with the assurance that, *Our true home is the Father's house, Our real treasure is in heaven, Our life is hidden with Christ.*

And no earthly power can take away the love or friendship of Jesus. St. John Chrysostom stood fearless before an emperor, because he had already placed his life in the hands of a greater King.

As we continue our Easter journey, Jesus reminds us: **He is the Way that leads us home, the Truth that sets us free, and the Life that never ends.** If we hold firmly to Jesus, like St. John Chrysostom, no fear can overcome us, no suffering can defeat us, and no worldly threat can shake our peace.

Let us entrust our lives to Jesus who said,

“Lord, you are my Way - guide me.

You are my Truth -teach me.

You are my Life-strengthening me. Lead me always to the Father's house.”

May God bless all of us. Amen.