

Year A 6th Sunday in Easter

ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION TO ANYONE WHO ASKS YOU FOR A REASON FOR YOUR HOPE, BUT DO IT WITH GENTLENESS AND REVERENCE. -1PETER 3:15-16

“Be patient, God isn’t finished with me yet.”

1. First Reading has an interesting little story about human hopelessness and how it is contrary to God’s plan

ON THE WAY THEY ENTERED A SAMARITAN VILLAGE TO PREPARE FOR HIS RECEPTION THERE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT WELCOME HIM BECAUSE THE DESTINATION OF HIS JOURNEY WAS JERUSALEM. WHEN THE DISCIPLES JAMES AND JOHN SAW THIS THEY ASKED, “LORD, DO YOU WANT US TO CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN TO CONSUME THEM?” JESUS TURNED AND REBUKED THEM, AND THEY JOURNEYED TO ANOTHER VILLAGE. (LUKE 9:52-56)

God wasn’t finished with them yet.

A few lessons here:

- We can’t think we’ve got it definitively figured out
- Be faithful to following Jesus and acting like Him
- Always have hope, knowing that God is at work accomplishing His Plan – God isn’t finished yet.

2. Hope

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has a lot to say about the virtue of Hope, but most importantly it tells us this:

CCC 1817 Hope is the theological virtue by which we *desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness*, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

What are you hoping for at this point?

The virtue of hope reminds keeps our eyes fixed on heaven as our one true goal – and reminds us that despite all the ups and downs of earthly life – God isn’t finished with us yet!

3. So,

- trusting that Jesus sees past just our faults and failings and rejections of Him,
- trusting that he has a plan for us, and that it's never too late, he's not done with us
- knowing that our one real hope is heaven

What should we do?

Sit down and consider these truths

- my goal in life is to get to heaven
- the goal of my whole existence is to get to heaven
- the thing that gives me hope in this valley of tears is eternal life with God

1. What's the thing that deflates that hope? Makes me forget that the goal of my existence is eternal life?

2. What's the dead-end path I keep turning down? What leads me away from heaven?

What am I placing my hope in that is not eternal life?

What do I need to do?