

Third Saturday of Easter ~ 4/28

"So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'" (John 6:68-69)

In the old westerns that run late at night on television there is often a scene in which the hero asks the people in the town to help him stop the gunmen who are trying to take over. The people are afraid and slowly we see one after another walk away leaving the hero to stand by himself. We watch and say to ourselves that if we were there we would have stuck by our man. But would we? And what is going on inside of the hero as he watches everyone walk away?

Every once in a while in our lives we will find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of needing the assurance of others. This is uncomfortable because when we ask for their support it may not be forthcoming. Like the cowboy we may find that we stand alone. This is a crushing blow if we thought we could rely on these people to affirm our work, our dreams or our direction in life.

Jesus has experienced a lot of rejection at this point. All those who had been so enthusiastic just the day before were now abandoning Him because they could not accept His teachings. What started out to be a great day seems to have turned into a disaster. Amid all of the defections Jesus needs to know where His own people stand. He wants to know if they will abandon Him too.

In this moment of uncertainty there comes from the depth of the heart of Peter, a flash of fire. From his mouth comes a word of insight. He may not speak with bold conviction but it is obvious the truth has taken root in him. In this one moment Peter sees that he has passed the point of no return. He realizes that there is no where else for him to go. He is committed because he has allowed himself to become dependent on the Lord.

What a comfort this statement of Peter's is for Jesus. The Apostles are beginning to see the bigger picture. They have come to understand at some level what is being offered to them. They may falter in their faith but for this day, in this moment of confusion they are on the same page. On this one particular day Peter has made Jesus' load lighter.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Have I had occasion in my life to lighten the load of Jesus by professing my faith?*
- 2. What is it like to experience the spark of insight in our hearts?*

Prayer: Spirit of God, help me to speak the truth of Your love. May I never let the Spark of Your Holy Fire that ignites in me go unacknowledged.