

Sixth Wednesday of Easter ~ 5/16

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:12-13)

We watch the evening news and see pictures of people killed violently in war and we turn the television off because we cannot bear to look at the images any longer. We receive the news that someone whom we have loved deeply in life has died suddenly and we say that we cannot bear the loss or the sadness. All of us can understand this sense of not being able to bear up. But sometimes the truth that we cannot handle is actually beautiful and joyful Good News. Sometimes we simply cannot comprehend the awe and majesty of God.

A woman from the plain states traveled to the Rocky Mountains for the first time and said afterward that it was too much. When asked to explain she said that the whole experience was so grand and overwhelmingly beautiful that she could not handle it. The grandeur of the snow-covered peaks took her breath away and she finally had to leave the viewing area because she could not bear the awesome marvel. It was suggested that she go back down the mountain and spend some time in the foothills and then work up to the mountain top experience.

For those of us who seek God we might learn a lesson from the woman who went to the Rockies. As much as we want to experience God we must realize that for most of us the unveiling of the beauty of God must be a slow process because we cannot take in the fullness of God. Our brains would overload, our emotions would splinter and we simply would need to turn away.

Jesus seems to know this and so suggests that the apostles wait for the Spirit to reveal the truth over a period of time. After Jesus leaves, His followers spend a good deal of time in prayer and reflection. They remember all that He taught them, all that He did and they ponder the meaning of the Resurrection. When the Spirit arrives, their questions begin to get answers. They are able to connect the Scripture passages that they have known all their lives and relate them to Jesus the Messiah in a way that clicks deep inside them. They begin to realize that Jesus has given them the power to work miracles in His name. Yet they had to continue to pray and they continued to struggle because they were not given all the answers immediately. The Spirit of Pentecost is still revealing the person of Jesus today and even with all that we learned in the past two thousand years we still are unable to bear the whole awesome truth of Jesus.

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Have I ever been overwhelmed with the presence of Jesus?*
- 2. What is the most recent thing that I have come to know about Jesus?*

Prayer: Spirit of all that is Holy, fill me to my capacity to hold you.