

Fulfillment

Truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished

For this homily, I could go on and talk about all the different prophecies that Jesus had fulfilled. I could talk about how Jesus is the New Passover Lamb whose bones were not broken just like the Passover lambs in exodus. Or I could talk about how Jesus is the New Adam because from his side, the New Eve, the Church has sprung. While these prophecies are amazing and wonderful, there something as important, if not more important, he wants to fulfill.

Throughout the scriptures and over salvation history, God has been planting the seeds of his prophecies beginning in Genesis when God promises to send a seed of the woman who will crush the serpent's head, to Deuteronomy where God will send a prophet like Moses or in 2 Samuel where God prophesizes that the throne of David shall last forever.

What the Jewish people would do in response to the word of God was that they would soak in these scriptures so that it became like honey to their mouth. Jeff Cavins talked about how the students of the rabbi would memorize scripture and after they had memorized it then they would lick this piece of stone with honey on it to associate the sweet taste of honey with the desire for Scripture.

How sweet are thy words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth! Ps 119:113

So the Jewish educational culture was emphasizing what God was trying to emphasize: a love for the scriptures and the prophecies. **The people of Israel were being trained in their desires and their hopes.** When the early Christians, who were Jews, saw how Jesus fulfilled the scriptures, Jesus did not just fulfill some old myth, he was the fulfillment of something more.

Jesus was not just the fulfillment of prophecy he was also the fulfillment of their desires.

For the early Christians Jesus was the fulfillment of both! For us when we hear that Jesus is the New Passover Lamb it can be very easy for us (me especially) to be like: cool! That is a nice idea! Or are we more like the early Christians when they heard that Jesus is the New Passover Lamb they saw in Jesus the fulfillment of all their desires: they longed to eat the flesh of this New Lamb, they longed for freedom from exile, for freedom to live in the New Jerusalem free from all sin and death where every tear will be wiped away and we shall behold the glory of God!

The Church in her wisdom just like the Jewish educational culture is also educating us in our desires. This is the reason why we fast before mass, why we fast during lent. The early Christians would fast on Wednesdays and Fridays because they were training their hungers and desires.

When we wake up in the morning we do not naturally desire the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. I wake up desiring bacon and donuts! What fasting does is that it makes us recognize that our hunger is not just for this world and fasting combined with prayer takes that hunger and directs it to heaven, directs it to the one who wants to be the fulfillment of all our desires.

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Is Jesus just the fulfillment of prophecy or is he also the fulfillment of all your desires?