

Right Before Your Eyes

Put yourselves into the shoes of Jesus Christ. Imagine that after emphasizing the monotheistic nature of Judaism, you have to reveal to the whole world that you are the Second Person of the Trinity. You are called to reveal the greatest mystery of reality that human thinking has never even conceived of. You are not contradicting the Oneness of God but rather you are revealing its full depths. How would you do it? How did he do it?

When Jesus does some of his healings in the Gospels, he does something quite intentional and seemingly peculiar. When he goes to heal the man who was ill for 38 years, what day does he choose to heal him? St. John tells us yesterday that it was on the sabbath. This man has been waiting for 38 years to be healed! Surely waiting another day would not have been a huge deal or it would have been even better for Jesus to heal him a day before the sabbath.

This is all to emphasize this: Jesus deliberately chose to heal this man on the sabbath. But why?

This is what the Jews of Jesus' time asked him. It seemed to them that Jesus was breaking Jewish law by 'working' on the sabbath. But how did Jesus respond? He said, "My Father is still working and I also am working." This is a very interesting phrase. In the Book of Genesis, it tells us that on the seventh day God rested from his work of creation.

But there was a development in Jewish tradition that since that time, God has been working on the sabbath. There are the two things that happen even when it is the sabbath: death and life, people dying and children being born. But who has the power to take and to give life? God alone. So indeed, that is what Jesus means when he says that God is still working and later on in the Gospel of John it says the Father raises the dead and gives them life referring to his work on the sabbath.

But the whole point of this is to show that not only is the Father working, but the Son is working as well. Jesus is saying it is legitimate to be working on the sabbath for him because just as the Father gives life on the Sabbath, so too the Son can give life on the Sabbath. Yet the Jews get angry at him and want to kill him because he "was calling God his own Father thereby making himself equal to God."

They missed the point. How else was Jesus to reveal his divine nature? "I'll do something that ONLY GOD can do, i.e., heal someone on the Sabbath, give life on the Sabbath. That is how I will reveal to them that I am God!" Yet the Jewish people got so caught up in the sacredness of the Sabbath they neglected ultimate sacredness due to the Lord of the Sabbath who was right in front of them.

Most of us aren't tempted to deny the sacredness of Jesus in the mass, but we are tempted to deny the sacredness of his presence in our daily lives where is waiting for us. And sometimes we can completely miss him

If you have read the diary of St. Faustina, you will notice something remarkable about her and also about the saints: she talks to Jesus about everything. Obviously, she talks about her spiritual life, her dryness to Jesus, her desire to have a good spiritual director. What is interesting is that she even talked to Jesus about potatoes!

St. Faustina was given the task of working with the large pot of potatoes, but she knew she was so weak that when she was pouring out the water with the potatoes that she would pour half of the potatoes with the water. She prayed to Jesus one day and she heard in her heart: I will strengthen you. The next

time she was about to empty the water from the pot, instead of seeing potatoes she saw beautiful red roses and Jesus said this to her: I change such hard work of ours into bouquets of most beautiful flowers and their perfume rises up to My throne. From then onwards, St. Faustina loved pouring out potatoes because she saw how the difficult work in her life was very pleasing to God.

The sacredness of worship is meant to transform our lives into sacred moments so that our whole lives becomes a sacrifice of praise. Let us open our hearts to God's presence in our daily lives for we could be missing out on the God who is right in front of our very eyes.