

Everything

Well...today is my last day at St. Peter's and I've been reflecting on what my last words would be for St. Peter's parish. If there is one thing I would like you to remember, one truth, what would it be?

Last time this year I had just finished my 30 day Ignatian retreat and celebrated this same feast. So I was thinking about sharing one of the graces I received while doing the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius and when I looked at the readings I knew exactly what I wanted to share.

At the beginning of the retreat, we were reminded by St. Ignatius of this before the retreat: I will ask my Lord for what I want and desire. We were told to be bold with our desires and reminded by another great saint that "to put limits to our desires and our hopes means that we reject the infinite goodness of God" (St Therese).

So like Moses, I was bold and I asked and I desired to see the face of God, I wanted to see his glory, I wanted to see his beauty. I was tired of all the counterfeit beauty this world had to offer. I needed a new vision and I wanted to see the source of beauty itself so that I may see the beauty I have so longed to see. I wanted to carry this beauty in my heart to radiate it to the world like the face of Moses.

One week goes by. Then two. And in the third week, I was reflecting on the silence of Jesus during his Passion. There were moments before Herod and Pilate when Jesus was silent. Why? Jesus, why were you silent? The silence of Jesus is not just any silence. It is the silence of the Word of God. Paradoxically, in the silence the Word is spoken. But what?

Gaudium et Spes 22 which was quoted by St. John Paul II many times gave me an insight. "The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate WORD does the mystery of man take on light." Ah, so in the MYSTERY of Jesus' silence he is revealing the MYSTERY of who we are.

And it is particularly his silence on the Cross which reveals to us these mysteries. The silence of the Word of God reaches its crescendo on the Cross. "Christ the final Adam by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear." So I kept asking the question: what does Jesus' silence of the Cross reveal not just about him but about the Father? What is our supreme calling? I asked over and over again. I desired it more and more.

Then as I looked upon the Cross, I heard the most profound answer in the silence of my heart: He is worth it, the Father is worth everything. It clicked. The whole Passion made sense. In his silence, Jesus is proclaiming at the top of his lungs. In his silence Jesus is shouting from the rooftop of the Cross, he is roaring like a lion proclaiming a truth that will go down through the ages into eternity: THE FATHER IS WORTH EVERYTHING.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has prepared for those who love him...I have found the pearl of great price! The treasure hidden in the field! I felt what the early martyrs felt, what the saints throughout the ages believed: that he is worthy everything. I saw how the sufferings of the present are nothing compared to the glory to be revealed in us. I saw how all the suffering in this world is but a pin point on the scale of eternity and heaven will be worth it all.

Then, the consolation I felt in my heart like ray of light became wider like heaven was opening and I could feel the light, the warmth on my skin and blood. It was like I caught a brief glimpse of the Father's beauty and the truth I knew in my head I felt in my heart: that he is worth everything.

Dear brothers and sisters, do you know this deep in the core of your being? Have you found the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the field which is worth selling everything to get it? Pray. Repent. Turn away from sin. Seek him. Desire him. If we do so, we will truly, truly find the fulfillment of all our longings.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which someone FOUND and hid, then in his JOY he goes and sells ALL that he has and buys that field" (Mt 13:44).