

Homily for May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020  
Saturday of 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

*The Way of the Lord*

The reading from Acts speaks of a man named Apollos who was from the second largest city in the Roman Empire, Alexandria, in Northern Egypt. He came from a city that had the greatest library in the ancient world, a place where people had shared and exchanged ideas about life's meaning for thousands of years. Somewhere in his life, Apollos was introduced to the Scriptures of the Jewish people, the Hebrew Bible and had become so taken with these texts, that the God of whom they spoke became Apollos' God too. Not only did he believe in God, but he came to see in Jesus Christ the fulfilment of the story that unfolded on the pages of the Old Testament. Such was his outlook on life that St. Luke tells us that he was both fervent in Spirit and spoke accurately about Jesus, but he only knew the Baptism of John.

Here is a man who was living such a purposeful and meaningful life but to date only knew the Baptism of John. This means that he had been prepared for Jesus, because we know that John declared he came to prepare the way of the Lord. Apollos' heart was one that so deeply followed Jesus but he also had the humility to learn more fully of Jesus from Priscilla and Aquilla, whom we are told: "took him and expounded to him the Way of God more accurately."<sup>1</sup>

Luke repeatedly uses the term, "the Way" to describe the early Christian movement. I find this a helpful image to think of what it means to be followers of Jesus. Remember the Lord said to the original disciples, "come and follow me". There is a way he was leading them. Ever since the original disciples were issued that invitation, people like Apollos have chosen the Way in which Jesus is the leader. Like Apollos we are always given the opportunity to deepen in our relationship with Jesus by asking the question, am I following Jesus' way or just trying to make my way through the world? When, like Apollos we see more fully who Jesus is and what it means to be in relationship with him we discover what the disciples were told in today's Gospel. Jesus looks forward to when, after his Resurrection, they will no longer ask him questions about what he meant when speaking about dying and rising, for now they will have experienced it plainly. However, they will ask him and the Father about the full meaning of what his life means for their lives and for those to whom they will proclaim the Gospel. In other words, they will come to see how Jesus is the Way to assist them as they continue to live in this world.

What Jesus wants for you and for me is that as we see him and follow in His Way, so that like Apollos the Scriptures will have a meaning in our lives because we know the one of whom they so clearly speak, Jesus Christ. For it as we know Jesus in a personal and intimate way that the Love of the Father will inspire us to ask always for a deepening knowledge of and experience of Jesus and so live in the Joy of the Lord so on display in today's Psalm:

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible\*](#). (2006). (Revised Standard Version; Second Catholic Edition, Ac 18:26). San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

*Clap your hands all you people,  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
For the Lord the Most high is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth*

Such was the praise resonating from the life of Apollos and such is the joy of those who in knowing the Way of Jesus follow him along the Way so that one day we too will have made our way to the fulness of heavenly praise.