

JANUARY 5, 2022
Wednesday after the Epiphany of the Lord
Mark 6: 45-52

“JUST KEEP LOVING.”

We know that love is the reason why God made flesh, born of a woman, and died for our sake. John the Evangelist in our first reading summarized all our Christian life: “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”¹ That’s what we need, everything is icing on the cake. If we love, we love no ifs or buts, all love. Even people around us hate us, still Jesus teaches us to love even our enemies. Why people hate those who love people? Good people are hated so often not because they are bad but because they are good. They do not want to love and be loved as they hate love. The goodness of people can be threatening to those who do not love. Look at our martyrs and persecuted Christians. They only loved the Lord, but they were hated and despised because they followed the Lord of love, lived it, and share it to others. The consequence of loving and following the Lord of love can also be death to the person who loved. The first reading is reminding us, expect bad people will hate us because of the love and goodness we share, they are threatened. But continue to live and share that love whatever is the consequence. They do not understand Christian love, which is sacrificial, unwavering and limitless.

Jesus feeds the five thousand because of His compassion to them. That love was manifested when His disciples were frightened as they saw Him. He said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”² Fear is nothing if we truly love and surrender everything to the One we love. If we love Christ, no need to be afraid because He will hold our hands and take care of us. As to the disciples, they do not recognize, understand about the

¹ 1 John 4: 11-12 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

² Mark 6: 50 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

multiplication of loaves and fish and even the walking of Jesus in the water because their hearts were still hardened. Like them, if our hearts are not open, tough, and not full of love, we will never understand the plan of God in our lives. Let us imitate Mary and Joseph even if they were confused and frightened when they received the news of being the Mother and foster-father of Jesus, they surrender and opened their hearts to the will of God. The ultimate outcome: reward of heaven and salvation for all. One act of love can produce joy and happiness to the people you gave love. This is the essence of Christmas and the epiphany or manifestation of God: love. So, love and love our brothers and sisters, it can bring smile and joy sometimes for oneself even others do not reciprocate and respond to it. Just keep loving.