

Fifth Sunday of Easter (YA). 7th May 2023. Do not let your heart be troubled.

Luke told us in the Act of the Apostles that the disciples continue to grow in number, and the word of God spreads over most parts of the world.

In as much as the word of God continues to spread all over the world and people are beginning to be enlightened, doesn't take away the fact of trials the tribulations faced by the disciples and the followers of Jesus Christ. As they propagated the gospel of Christ, not everyone received them with generous hearts. They encounter rejection from leaders and among their people. This confirms the saying of Jesus in Matthew's gospel: Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved (10:22). Jesus was conscious of their imperfections, which is why he said; when they persecute you in one town, run away to another. v23.

Today's gospel proved that Jesus observed their mood, action, and steps. They seemed not to be happy with the whole situation they found themselves in. He put before them this word of encouragement "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Making a categorical statement like this indicates that Jesus wouldn't abandon his people and that he was aware of their plight.

In a world like ours, we can't help but to be worried about what is happening around us day by day. The world is becoming uninhabitable to people who are created in God's image; there is a fear of the unknown. Human dignity is not a priority compared to the materials possession, and family, which should be a unifying factor, is destroyed daily for the selfish interest of some individuals. That can be seen in our relationship with one another: a father or mother is not humble to apologize when one is guilty of any fault, children don't have regards to their parents simply because they think they are more educated or informed than the parents, today, many parents lose focus of their primary responsibility while busy pursuing money, which is why divorced, and infidelity are on the increased.

How can we not worry when human lives are not safe? How can we not worry when the church, which should be a source of consolation, is divided? How can we not worry when we can no longer trust our leaders? How can we not worry when sickness is becoming prevalent in our society despite the advancement of modern science? How can we not worry in a world where some people deny the existence of God, yet keeps enjoying what God bestowed to the world?

Amidst, our worries, Jesus is saying do not let your heart be troubled believe in God, believe also in me! When we focus on our trouble, we would only become more frustrated and cause more injuries to ourselves. Our hearts must not be troubled! Therefore, let us come to Jesus who is the way the truth and the life. Doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong. He was, whom St. Peter refers in our second reading as a cornerstone, chosen and precious. Whoever believes in him shall not be put to shame.

Beloved in Christ, why not come to Jesus today, who promise us eternal kingdom?

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon