

Our witness to the World

Acts 1:6-9

July, 9th 2022

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Prayer:

Sermon:

The death of Jesus on the cross as well as his burial were a moment of sorrow and despair for all his followers.

Everyone was scattering in their direction because the man on whom they had placed all their hopes had just been mercilessly crucified.

Peter, who swore to die with him, who denied him, who mourned his denial, will finally say to the rest of the disciples, I'm going fishing! And everyone said we'll go with you.

The two disciples on their way to Emmaus, they returned disappointed by the events that took place in Jerusalem about this man whom they believed was a prophet and that it is he who was to save Israel!

When the eyes of the disciples of Emmaus were opened and they knew that it was the Lord who walked with them, the same night, they took the road to Jerusalem to bear witness (Luke 24. 18-35).

When Mary and the other women went to the tomb with sorrow, to perfume the body of their Lord wondering who should help them roll away the great Stone in front of the tomb!

But when they arrived, found the tomb empty and the angel of the Lord told them that he

was alive, they ran to announce the good news.

The good news of resurrection that the women brought, brought strength to Peter and to the disciples.

It is the resurrection of Jesus that gives strength to our witness as Christians. Paul says it well in 1Corinthians 15:14 that "if Christ is not risen, then our preaching and our faith are in vain. (1Cor. 15:14). We preach a living Jesus who communicates his life to believers.

It is through the death and resurrection of Jesus that we bear witness to the world

Here there is a conversation between Jesus and the disciples! In this joy of reunion, in this joy of seeing the risen Jesus, the disciples want to seize this opportunity to raise a concern that gnaws at their hearts to which Jesus may give little importance.

“Lord, is it at this time that you will restore the kingdom of Israel”!!!

The author tells us that gathered around Him the disciples asked Him!

- Did they choose one of them to say it on behalf of everyone?

- Did they do, as Roger does with the choir by kicking off and that the whole choir sings?

- One thing is certain, the restoration of the kingdom of Israel was the concern of all the Jews.

- Remember this Mom who will bring these two young people to

Jesus tell him, Lord, I want when you are going to set up your kingdom, let

my two children here be by your side. One on your left and the other on your right!
(Matthew 20:20-21)

- When Jesus enters Jerusalem, the people sang, they shouted Hozanna, Hozanna! Save now, save now! Blessed be he who comes in the name

of our father. King David! They wanted to see Jesus go to the palace but he went to the Church. I think many were disappointed because they expected a revolution against the Roman occupiers.

- I see, John the Baptist in prison, sending his disciples to tell Jesus to Jesus to be reassured if it was really Him the Messiah who was to come or they would have to wait for another! (Matthew 11:2-5).
- John asks this question by referring to the writings of the prophet Isaiah according to which, the release of prisoners is one of the missions that the Messiah must accomplish. If He is Messiah what is he waiting to come and free me!

These various passages show how much the restoration of the kingdom of Israel was a major concern in the hearts of the people. This is legitimate for all bruised, oppressed people, deprived of freedom.

When the disciples ask the question, he says Of course, it is in this time. The term they use for time is different from the term Jesus will use to answer them. They use the term "**Kronos**" which is a time to count.

- Is this the time to end the reign of the Romans so that we can talk about our reign?
- That is to say the time of others has passed, it is now our time to dominate
- This is the time to inflict evil on them as they have done on us!
- Is it the time to count our sorrows

This is the type of kingdom the disciples ask Jesus for. a kingdom they seek will have a left and a right.

A kingdom that breathes hatred and revenge on others, a kingdom of people who only plead for their children, in this case this Mom!

All this time during which Jesus spent with his people, he did not stop talking to them about the kingdom of God.

In response to their request, Jesus told them that it was not for them to know the times the father had set. He gives them priority as disciples.

Jesus uses a different term from theirs for time.

“**Kairos**” a favorable time. Jesus told them that they should seize this favorable time to bear the Testimony of Christ beginning in Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea and to the ends of the earth.

Jesus diverts them from their conception of an earthly kingdom, without God to install a kingdom where love reigns and everyone considers themselves brothers and sisters.

Now is a good time for the church to speak of justice for those who are oppressed.

This time is favorable for the disciples to deliver those who are still in the grip of violence.

When John the Baptist is waiting for a Messiah who must come and destroy the prison to give him physical freedom, Jesus asks the disciples of John to go and bear witness of what they have seen and heard.

Our testimony is summed up in the love of God for humanity by sending Jesus Christ to save us. and Christ recommends us to go and present this love of God to the world.

go and tell Jean what you have seen and heard. I am feeding the hungry, I am healing the sick, I am giving life to the dead.

I have read our Church newsletter and ask you to continue to serve your God and bear our witness to the world.

If you are feeding the hungry, it is because you love them, if there are people in this church who devote their time to praying for the city, the mission and all our programs, it is because they love.

Jesus recommends them not to watch what is happening but to be witnesses of God's love.

This love that unites

This consoling love

This love that has no left or right.

May the Lord Bless us as we continue spreading His witness to the World!