



Fr. Matt's Musings

May 6, 2017

If Christmas is a festival of lights, Easter is a festival of love.
Living Liturgy, p. 101

I once heard this parable, and like most parables, it is not meant to be taken literally, but to be explored and embraced.

An angel of the Lord was sent into hell with a bucket of water with an unending flow. For weeks, the angel threw the bucket's contents on the seemingly overwhelming flames. After a few weeks of constant work, the angel's efforts won, and the flames were completely doused. Meanwhile, a second angel was sent into heaven. This angel's purpose was to set all the mansions of heaven on fire. After a few weeks, they were completely destroyed. Afterwards, the two angels reunited and said, "Now, let's see who really loves God."

Easter is the season of love. The resurrection tells us that love wins; life is stronger than death; love is stronger than betrayal, denial, abandonment, suffering and all the injustice and ugliness that can confront us. Do we believe this? Do we live as an Easter people who fight to sing that Alleluia is our anthem?

In this first part of Easter, we have Mary Magdalene, Thomas and the other apostles who had difficulty believing this message of new life. Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. The apostles gathered in the upper room behind locked doors. Thomas could not believe without proof. Who could blame them? But they came to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, and that changed their lives.

What proof do we need that love wins? What wound or hurt needs to be healed? What transgression needs to be forgiven? What words need to be spoken? What fear needs to be released or what anxiety needs to be calmed? From the parable, what burning hurt needs to be doused or what fire needs to be ignited in our love life?

Maybe it's as simple as dedicating ourselves to love. Make love the word we say upon waking. Make love the word we remind ourselves of throughout the day. God is love. We are called to love. Who needs my love at this moment? I am loved beyond imagination and expectation by God. How do I accept and share that love? Love and be loved.

Live Jesus!

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