



**Meditation for the
20th and 21st March 2021**

5th Sunday of Lent

The Gospel according to John 12: 20-33

“We want to meet Jesus”: the Greeks stating their wish most likely haven’t foreseen what will happen next! It sets off a whole series of moving events. They will go to see Philip, who goes to see Andrew; then both will go to share the wish with Jesus. And Jesus will reply with a long talk. Is this really what the Greeks are looking for? We don’t know the answer to that. The bible verses don’t talk about them again, but the fact of wanting to meet Jesus causes movement and something unexpected.

*At present are you more like the Greeks wanting to meet Jesus, more like Philip who welcomes their wish, or more like Andrew who shows the way to Jesus?
How does this wish to meet Jesus move you?*

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” Just before this Gospel passage is Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The evangelist (John 12, 15) echoes a verse from the book of Zecharia: “See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey” (Zech 9, 9). Who then is this Jesus that the Greeks wish to see? A king? The one that the prophet Zecharia talks of, mounted on a donkey? To help them along, Jesus starts with a small parable, that of the grain of wheat that needs to fall in to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit. In this way he turns the situation around: in loving one’s life we will lose it, in letting it go we will gain eternal life... And he goes on to say that this is not just for him but for all those who serve him. Each one of these verses would need a whole page of commentary each! Let us consider for now this grain that desires to bear much fruit, this eternal life that is offered. God neither desires nor plans death, never. On the other hand, choosing plenitude, choosing abundance also involves relinquishing, smaller or bigger “deaths”... God does not ask us to choose to “lose”, on the contrary, God offers us a gift as huge and as generous as he is! That opens us up to new horizons with the gift of eternal life, but it also lets us work through our own dispossession.

In what way do you bear fruit at present? What abundance or fullness do you choose? What dispossession do you experience as a result?

“Now, my soul is troubled.” Coming across a verse where Jesus speaks of what is happening in his soul is a rare thing. This radical journey he takes in giving his own life is troubling for him as it is for us...

Contemplate Jesus coming face to face with this choice.... At this point in your life, in what way are you moved by this radical gift?

“Father, glorify your name! - I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” That glory has nothing to do with the glory that comes with resounding success, like the world cup, an Oscar or an Olympic medal. In the second century, St Irenaeus of Lyon gives us a good example of what it is: “For the glory of God is a living man; and the life of man consists in beholding God”. That is present in the relationship between God, Jesus and each one of us.” On all sides there is respect, dignity and being lifted up, even though, as Christ says at the end of this gospel story, it is on the cross that he himself will be lifted up. We will never finish being confronted with this mystery of God’s glory, Christ’s glory, the glory that is within us as living human beings who are upright with dignity. And this glory is not a super-power, but quite the opposite: a humble light that shines through our fragility and vulnerability. It has its source in the gift of infinite love and shines mysteriously out of that love.

*How does this mystery of God’s glory touch you today?
Can you identify this shaft of light that is God’s glory within you, and within those around you?*

Sr Anne Peyremorte

“If you knew the gift of God”

Taking the Word of God that we have just meditated upon, what gift of God have you received for the coming week?

- Meeting Jesus
- Bearing much fruit
- Being troubled
- The glory of God
- Other:

How do you wish to reply to this gift?

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