

FIFTH MONDAY IN EASTERTIDE

11TH MAY 2020

Reflection: In the Acts of the Apostles, Barnabus & Paul are way out from the land that they would know. The culture of the people is different. The locals worshipped a number of deities, each responsible for a different aspect of life. When the man who suffered from a disability rose to his feet one could understand that the people around thought that Paul & Barnabus were working miracles through the power of the gods that they worshipped & so were powerful in their own right. In fact, they treated these apostles as if they were gods themselves.

Paul's speech seeks to change the way the people saw what had happened. Paul says he is a human being with the power of the One True God working through him. We may not bring healing to those who suffer physically but we are all agents of the same God & our words & actions can carry God's love to those we work with & pray for.

A Reading From The Acts of the Apostles 14: 5-18



Eventually with the connivance of the authorities a move was made by pagans as well as Jews to make attacks on the apostles and to stone them. When the apostles came to hear of this, they went off for safety to Lycaonia where, in the towns of Lystra and Derbe and in the surrounding country, they preached the **Good News**.

A man sat there who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth; and as he listened to **Paul** preaching, he managed to catch his eye. Seeing that the man had the faith to be cured,

Paul said in a loud voice, '**Get to your feet – stand up**', and the cripple jumped up and began to walk.

When the crowd saw what **Paul** had done they shouted in the language of Lycaonia, '**These people are gods who have come down to us disguised as men.**' They addressed **Barnabas** as Zeus, and since **Paul** was the principal speaker they called him Hermes. The priests of Zeus-outside-the-Gate, proposing that all the people should offer sacrifice with them, brought garlanded oxen to the gates.

When the apostles **Barnabas** and **Paul** heard what was happening they tore their clothes, and rushed into the crowd, shouting,

'Friends, what do you think you are doing? We are only human beings like you. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the **Living God** who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that these hold. In the past he allowed each nation to go its own way; but even then he did not leave you without evidence of himself in the good things he does for you: he sends you rain from heaven, he makes your crops grow when they should, he gives you food and makes you happy.' Even this speech, however, was scarcely enough to stop the crowd offering them sacrifice.



THE WORD OF THE LORD

PSALM 113B (115)

Not to us, Lord, not to us,
But to your name give the glory
For the sake of your love and your truth,
Lest the heathen say:
'Where is their God?'

But our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever he wills.
Their idols are silver and gold,
The work of human hands.

May you be blessed by the Lord,
The maker of heaven and earth.
The heavens belong to the Lord
But the earth he has given to men.



A Reading From the Holy Gospel According to John 14: 14 – 21

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.

Judas – this was not Judas Iscariot – said to him, ‘Lord, what is all this about? Do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?’

Jesus replied:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my **Father** will love him,
and we shall come to him and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you while still with you;
but the **Advocate, the Holy Spirit**,
whom the **Father** will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Reflection on the Gospel: This part of the Gospel is a continuation of the passage we looked at last week. Jesus speaks the night of the Last Supper & assures his friends that the Holy Spirit will be with them even when they seem to lose sight of him.

In a short while we will celebrate Pentecost, the fifty days since Easter Day when we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. Let us think of those who have been Baptised & Confirmed & those preparing to receive these sacraments. Hopefully we will be able to use the font again & rejoice at the birth of new sons & daughters.

Then we will also prepare for the Confirmation of more of the parishes’ young people.

A new generation bright minds close to God. Father, Son & Holy Spirit.