

THE GLORY OF EASTER: ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

ACTS 9:26-31; 1 JOHN 3:18-24; JOHN 15:1-8

In cultures of the world, integrity is a high value and Christ's teaching today resonates with these values. Christian life and our social, political, and family life are inseparable. Our faith should be translated into life. Words and deeds are inseparable. In the ancient Rome, they used to say: "operemus credite not verbum", "trust in deed not in words", the modern day Italian tell you: "prati non parole", Spanish people will tell you: "Las palabras Se ilevan en el viento":

"words are carried in the wind".

In English, we say: "Actions speak louder than words". In most African languages, this is ascertained in a very strong way: " Mod asikik a mikobo; mod ane a mimbo" in Beti language in Cameroon. "A true person is not recognized by his words but by their actions". What Paul, John, and Jesus are telling us this Sunday is that:

"The world needs more witnesses

than it does teachers" (Pope Paul IV).

Be doers of the Words not hearers only.

Throughout the Bible, practicing the love, the words and the commandments of God has always been what pleases God. Jesus himself tells us that:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Mt7:21)

Saint James invites us to **"be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)**

This clearly means faith without works is barren. It is dead.

In the first reading, Acts 9:26-31, relationships, messed-up personality. Remember



“a house divided against itself cannot stand” (Mt 12:26).

Friends, we are Christians; let us have good hearts. Let us produce good actions! As Christians we must make good choices, do what faith and love do and faith will continue to grow in our lives.

Divine life invites us to be grafted into the true vine, the Source of life, Jesus Christ and abide in his word so that I can bear fruits. But sometimes even the devil uses the Bible. He might know the scriptures more than us. We must truly be Christians. Being Christian is not by word but life. We must know the Word, Jesus, and become what we hear and read everyday. When the Bible says, “ You will know the truth and the truth shall set you free”. Once we apply the truth of the word of Christ in our lives, there will be stability.

Once we truly know the word, we will no longer speak ill about anybody; we will no longer discriminate anyone because his or her origins, his or her culture. We must clearly make a difference between memorizing the Bible verses or claiming to be a Christian with our lips and knowing Jesus from our heart. Abiding in Jesus is to know his word from our heart - to love him from our heart because the word of God that we hear everyday is for our hearts. He says in Revelation 3: 20:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

God stands at the door of your door of your heart so that he may enter in. The word of God is not for your head but for your heart. St James is very clear to us:

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

Christianity is not a mere religion, but a way of life. Let us allow the power of the word penetrate our hearts as we come to Church every Sunday or everyday so that, we will no room for hatred, no room for gossips, no room for discrimination, no room for jealousy, no room for envy, no room for false accusations. Because we abide in Jesus, the true vine, we will bear fruits of love, kindness, gentleness, goodness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, peace, joy, unity and reconciliation.

We conclude with these words of one of the Catholic saints, “May God be your house and you God’s house. Dwell in God that God may dwell in you. God dwells in you to support you and you dwell in God in order not to fail. So, keep the commandment! Have charity!”

Happy Sunday!

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