

Homily 21/06/2020

"Do not be afraid" Jesus instructs the 12 for everything that is now covered will be uncovered and everything now hidden will be made clear.

When our children were small, they used to like to help me mow the lawn - it would have been much quicker to do and much neater when finished if they hadn't - as young adults they don't offer anymore. So, with 3 of us pushing the mower because they couldn't do it on their own, I still had to help the job was eventually done. This is the way God does things with us as he not only allows us but also calls us to help him in spreading his Kingdom. So when Jesus tells about the light he was speaking to us as well for the ministry we share with him is to bring love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, faith where there is doubt, hope where there is despair and joy where there is sadness.

But with this comes a cost for we have to be ready to face sufferings, hardships, sacrifices, rejection, even persecutions and Jeremiah- our first reading today is a great example of one who had to face such trials.

So many of these trials come through our battle against sin as today's second reading says "sin existed in the world long before the law was given". Because of such resistance from sin those who minister for Christ may suffer but need not be afraid for God will not allow us to suffer alone without his support or to suffer beyond our strength or in vain.

Jesus says do not be afraid and those words are very poignant in the life we have to live at this time but he tells us we are worth more than hundreds of sparrows every hair of your head is counted - that would not take long in my case but this tells us how much God values each and every one of us. Many years ago, someone carried out a survey in a university wanting to know why some people succeed while others with equal gifts and opportunities do not. Over several years of study, he discovered that the most important factor about success or failure was a person's self-image. In other words, if we think of ourselves as valuable and as loveable as we are to God, we can succeed, overcome great difficulties and be effective in our ministry.

As we are called to live out our Christian life " through all the changing scenes of life in trouble and in joy" remember being not afraid I am with you says the Lord.

Father Paul