

Father Bradley Neely
14th Sunday Ordinary Time
Spps – Nezperce: Jul 04, 2010
Is 66: 10-14c; Gal 6: 14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20

Each week there is a choice of two Opening Prayers for Mass.

One of them this past week contained within it a giving of thanks for the *radiance of truth*.

What a beautiful phrase---*the radiance of truth*.

In this past Thursday's daily Mass, the first reading was taken from the prophet Amos, who was called by God to deliver the truth of God's Covenant to a wayward Israel.

Three features here:

1-Israel was off the trolley;

2-Amos found it difficult to deliver the message,

3-and Israel was in no mood to listen.

In the *Gospel* Thursday,

the truth of God was revealed through his Son, who miraculously cured a paralytic.

Thursday's *psalm* praised the beauty of God's justice.

I remarked during Thursday's homily that it is a good to be reminded of the gift of *God's truth*---

in other words--what has been revealed by God and delivered through the prophets, through Jesus His Son, and now in this age, through the Son's Church.

Love of truth is especially important today because a lot of what we hear about day after day is *railing against the truth* of God.

Sometimes we can feel that in the world around us, and even within the Church, that God is treated as the enemy.

Here's the newsflash---- *God is not the enemy*.

In today's Gospel, there are some interesting aspects of how Jesus sent the seventy-two out into the world to preach the kingdom of God:

*He sent them as lambs among wolves.

*He said to greet those who receive you with:

"Peace to this household."

-but He warned them that their greeting of peace may have to be taken back.

*He directed them: if a town does not receive you, shake the dust of the town off your feet.

-that town will have to answer one day for their rejection.

Why would Jesus need to include these instructions? Wouldn't everyone be thrilled and grateful to know the truth of life itself?

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, there is mention of accepting the *truth* of God's revelation in faith:

"What moves us to believe

is not the fact that revealed truths

appear as true and intelligible

in the light of our natural reason;

we believe "because of the authority of God himself, who reveals them,

who can neither deceive nor be deceived." . . .

God willed that *external proofs* of his Revelation should be joined to the *internal helps of the Holy Spirit*.

Thus the:

*miracles of Christ and the saints,

*prophecies,

*the Church's growth and holiness

*and her fruitfulness and stability

"are the most certain signs of divine Revelation, adapted to the intelligence of all" (156).

The important thing here is the *source* of the truth.

It is God---who cannot deceive us.

Given all of this, *for our own benefit*, why *would* truth be rejected?

I have my own guesses:

*truth may not be convenient

-it might just get in the way.

it would redirect what we wish to do

*truth may be smothered by pride---

-a person believes they know truth apart from God.

* truth may be thought difficult to rise to

-we don't have it within us to aspire to it.

*For some who haven't had any exposure to the truth, it may be a new concept.

There may be fear of the unknown, or protective suspicion---

--hey wait a minute, "not so fast!"

But in actuality, comfort may be found in the foundation of revelation itself.

God has been revealed as a Trinity of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This tells us the truth that God is relational.

Those who have children

should be able to relate to the concern

that God must have for each one of us---
because of the concern they have
for their own children.
Parents want the very best for their children,
because they love them.
God wants the very best for us,
because we are not only loved,
but loved perfectly.

In love, God gave revealed the truth to us
of who He is,
and how he wants us to relate to him
to be acceptable for eternal existence in his kingdom.
This we must profess and live **the truth**
regardless of the world's reaction to us.
We already know we can get criticized,
moaned at, or even receive hostility
for living our faith.
And it is quite effective at shutting us down
if we allow it.
*But we must profess and live **the truth**
regardless of the world's reaction to us.*

If we find ourselves as lambs among wolves,
thank goodness we are lambs for God.
If we extend peace to someone, and they disregard it,
we take it back and extend it elsewhere.
If someone does not receive us because of our faith,
we dust our feet off, and continue on.
The Catechism, again speaking of faith, says:
"Faith is certain.
It is more certain than all human knowledge
because it is founded on the very word of God
who cannot lie" (157).
Again, it is the source of truth that is the key---
God who cannot deceive and who cannot lie.
Who has a better plan for us
that is actual, real, and true?