

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

In those days: Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’

And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the Apostles and the elders about this question.

Then it seemed good to the Apostles and the elders, with the whole Church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers and sisters, with the following letter:

‘The brothers, both the Apostles and the elders, to the brothers and sisters who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.’

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

May God be gracious and bless us
and let his face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your salvation.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
with uprightness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing
that all the ends of the earth may revere him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The angel carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates

the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed — on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

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A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.

And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

‘These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I will come to you.”

If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.’

The Gospel of The Lord

THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

It is difficult to build on success, there can always be opposition even among those who are supposed to agree with you .The disciples had to deal with the issue of, if they were followers of the law God gave to Moses, as Jesus was, all believers should share Jesus's practice including the traditions. But for the new Christians that Peter, Paul, and all the apostles were introducing to Christianity , Christianity was the answer for all nations who lived in hope of a better world..

The council of Jerusalem, perhaps only 15 to 20 years after Jesus's death, of apostles and Christians who wanted to keep the practice of the law reached a consensus that the High family values of fidelity and respect for the complementary sex should stay but the practice of the law should not be forced on the gentiles who do not have the traditions dating back to Moses. Meals for the community together should avoid only having anything which might have blood in it, to include the Loyally Jewish Christians. In short Moussaka , fish pie and vegetarian quiche should be available.

Guided perhaps by the Pharisee Gamaliel, said to the Jewish Sanhedrin that if the Apostles way was God's will it would flourish, if it was not from God it would decline.

Jesus knew he was going to say goodbye to his apostles here on earth, but his message of the Spirit being with them reveals the unity of the Trinity, because the Spirit would continue to guide the Church in its future

Christianity is focussed on the Son of God who became the son of man. His message is for us and made real in himself. The Holy Spirit will be sent to the disciples to guide them and

the people of God. The peace Jesus wanted was to be among his people, a sign to the world. Others have tried to hijack the Christian teaching and claim another source for it without Christ because it was so good and successful. The New city of God will have Jewish names on the doors, perhaps in tribute to the original apostles but it will be open to all who believe in the name of Christ.