

## Homily

Last week Jesus introduced himself to us as the Good Shepherd. During the previous Sundays after the celebration of the Resurrection, we heard the expression "It is I" by Jesus, to make the disciples see that it was Himself in person and give them assurance that He was alive and that He was not an illusion or a ghost like they could think.

With last week's Gospel, Jesus no longer appears to the disciples, but rather presents Himself as how and who He is. His expression will be "I am." And the first thing he taught us was that He is the Good Shepherd.

Today Jesus uses "I AM" again to continue teaching us who He is. "I am the True Vine", is the definition that He gives himself.

The teaching of Jesus is born from giving us security (I am) and develops by showing us who He is (I am...). His logic does not only seek proof of his existence, but also seeks that we recognize Him in his own essence and who He really is.

But, if we stay in the reflection of the teaching that Jesus wants to give us this Sunday, when He tells us that He is the true Vine, the first thing that stands out is the "unity" that we must have with Him. To bear fruit it is necessary to be united with Jesus, in Him we feed, grow, live and bear fruit.

However, there is another aspect that is related to his teaching, and that is the "communion". And to understand it we can resort to the same example of the vine or any tree.

No one can deny that for a branch to be alive it must be attached to the tree, but it is also true that a tree has many branches, and the normal thing is that they are not attached to each other, but they are in communion, thanks to the only trunk that supports them. and feed them all.

This is what Jesus does with us, not only unites us to Him, but also places us in "communion" with all our brothers. The great thing is that being "different branches", we all live and exist, because He is the source that feeds us.

This is Jesus, capable of transforming and changing our whole life. Just as we heard the story of Paul in the first reading: he changed his life by joining the same Jesus he was persecuting and who later led him to communion with the apostles and with the other people that he was going to convert.

The "I am" we hear this week, is what will give meaning to the "you are" when He tells us that we are His witnesses, "you are" salt of the earth, "you are" the light of the world, but that necessarily implies His invitation to remain in Him.

Perhaps this is the reason for the current crisis in our Christianity: we do not remain in Jesus and therefore we dry up, we do not bear fruit, much less do we live in communion.

Contact with the words of Jesus is vital, the absence of contact with the life of the Gospel, the Eucharist and the sacraments, sterilizes us, incapacitates us to live humanly in community and prevents us from having the proper commitment of the Risen One.

This week's invitation is to be united with Jesus and to live in communion; to bear concrete fruits of love, of justice in favor of all.

For this reason, thinking and reflecting on what we have heard, we can say that Jesus comes today to tell us: “do not fear, it is Me, I am real. I am your good Shepherd, I am the vine to which you must be united so that you have life”.

God bless you.

Fr. Jhakson