

Hindsight is said to be 20-20, because after the fact one can sit back and review things said and done to determine if the outcome could have been different, or even **BETTER** than as it actually turned out. Hindsight helps us to learn, to better understand, to grow in wisdom. We even refer to hindsight as “Monday Night Quarterbacking”, as we discuss what plays **SHOULD** have been used, and more importantly, which ones need to be avoided in the future.

The Gospel of John was written nearly 60 years after the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ, and is filled with his hindsight, time for John to have done thoughtful reflection on Jesus’ ministry; time dedicated to a deep interior discernment of the truth; time to look back with a more mature outlook on where the ministry was heading as it relates to the plan Jesus, God, had in mind.

We heard in today’s gospel one of Christ’s discourses with his disciples at the Last Supper: “I have told you this while I am with you,” and “I have told you this before it happens, so that **when it happens** you may believe.” Throughout the four gospels Jesus emphasizes to his disciples the importance of what he does and says. He explains his parables; he defines his words; he paints them a picture and points out all the nuances so that they will understand what he is talking about, yet they still don’t understand until the **RISEN** Lord reveals himself to them in the locked room.

WE have nearly 2000 years of biblical scholarly hindsight to help us come to understand Christ’s mission, to understand **GOD’S PLAN** for the human race, but what we need to be paying closer attention to, to spend time in prayerful discernment over, is what is God’s plan **FOR ME** and how do I follow it through? Now this might sound like a KISS statement, Keep It Simple Stupid, but if Jesus has already told me that my soul will be lost forever if I don’t listen to his words and follow him, why would I **NOT** do what he says and walk in his footsteps? Maybe for the same reason a child touches a hot stove after being told not to – some things we need to experience for ourselves before we come to knowledge.

Jesus told his disciples, “You’ve heard it said,” and then goes on, “but I tell you.” He is taking what people have come to believe as truth and **CORRECTING** their understanding and bringing them **BACK** to the real truth. And to reinforce their understanding, as well as our own, he let them know that the Paraclete, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit will come to them and teach them, **AND US, everything**, and remind us of all that he

told us. Just as a coach teaches the players the basics of the sport and his assistant is there to prod them along to stick with the game plan, Jesus is that good coach who told us how we must live our lives and the Holy Spirit assists us when times get tough and we forget what to do.

The Creator made a plan that all mankind gets along with each other, to love one another as He loves His creations. That plan, left in the hands of the created, didn't take too long to fall apart, but **HE**, the Creator, still had hope for His creations. Given time they will learn. Given time they will come to knowledge. Given time **HE** would need to come to them in the flesh to teach them anew, and show them what **TRUE LOVE** looks like. Jesus, the Lamb of God, offered himself to be slaughtered for our sins yet raised up for our salvation; what greater love is there than to lay down one's life for a friend.

Despite all our knowledge and insights, we are still in the learning process, trying to figure out how we can bring the world to love one another. Maybe we just need to start small by showing respect to those around us, letting the Holy Spirit do **his** work through us. If **I** can be a better person, a ray of hope to someone else, then maybe that will rub off onto them and be passed along.

Last weekend and this weekend we saw over 65 youth receive either their First Holy Communion or were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. Jesus Christ is alive and well in our small community. His Spirit still guides his church. And the love and grace of God shines brightly still in a world where darkness wants to rein. Looking back, maybe mankind could have done things better, but that can't be changed. So we look **FORWARD** with hope to the future in the knowledge and understanding that Jesus is with us if we keep his word and abide in him. By hindsight we **CAN** move forward in fulfilling God's plan of being instruments of the Holy Spirit, serving the people of God as best we can.