

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 2017

1. Anxiety and worry tend to be a fundamental problem of people
 - a. Some worry about jobs or making enough to cover expenses
 - b. We may worry about relatives, either parents or children or both
 - c. Will we meet the deadline for some project we are undertaking?
 - d. We probably can find unlimited number of things to worry about
2. Today we hear Jesus trying to reassure His disciple and prepare them for what is coming
 - a. He sees their naivete, on Palm Sunday the welcoming crowds may have lead them to believe they could be part of a conquering army
 - b. Jesus however is more realistic, He knows that betrayal and probably death are facing Him
 - c. He is trying to prepare the disciples
 - d. Says Do not let your hearts be troubled
3. Jesus seems to have high expectations
 - a. Reassure them by telling them I am going away for a while to prepare dwelling places
 - b. 'Just as you trust in God I want you to trust me
 - c. I will come back for you and you will know the way to follow me
4. Thomas expresses confusion, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way
 - a. Jesus gets direct with them: I am the way, the truth and the life
 - b. You will come to know the Father through me
 - c. Philip's response, show us the Father and that will be enough
 - d. Philip speaks for us here
 - e. We tend to have the idea that God should just give us the answers to life's problems
 - f. Why does he let us struggle with the problems of life, so that we would not have anything to worry about
5. Jesus challenges Philip, how can you say show us the Father
 - a. As long as I have been with you, you still do not realize that I am in the Father and the Father is in me
 - b. The works I have done should move you to believe that God is acting in me.
6. Implied rebuke for us is similar, what are we expecting of Faith
 - a. Are we looking for a God we can manipulate?
 - b. If we say the right words at the right times, then God will take care of our problems and desires
 - c. Our rituals and prayers are not magic incantations
7. They are meant to be the kind of rituals that friends have with each other

- a. Through these rituals, quiet times of personal prayer, Jesus gives us the opportunity of coming to know Him and through Him, God our Father
 - b. Jesus has very high expectations of us
 - c. He tells us that the more we come to know Him, more He will be part of us
 - d. If we let Him, He will perform greater works than He has done
 - e. We know that Jesus has used certain saints to do great wonders in world
 - f. When we come together as communities of faith, there are even greater wonders we can do as one people
8. Jesus wants to free us from the traps of worry and anxiety that we fall into when we think we are alone in the world
- a. Jesus has not abandoned us, He is preparing a path for us
 - b. In Him we can find life, we can know we are in touch with the truth
 - c. In Him we walk the way that can transform our world as we continue the work that he has left for us.