

**Belief in Jesus gives us Freedom and Power – Wednesday in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 (Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21)**

My dear brothers and sisters, if you know nothing about the Bible, begin in John 3:16, and if you know everything about the Bible go back to John 3:16. Today's gospel begins with Jesus telling Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) This statement of Jesus in John 3:16 for me is the ocean of love and the mountain of hope in the Bible. In fact, it is the heart of the Bible and the reason why we are who we are.

There is freedom for those who take John 3:16 to heart and act on it. It says, "so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." The most important call of this statement is "belief". It says, believe in Jesus and you will have freedom and salvation. John 1:12 says, "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God." In our first reading, the apostles Peter and John were freed from prison by the Angel of God and were given power to return to the Temple to preach because they believed in the name of Jesus.

Dear People of God, God loves us and sent his Son Jesus to save us. Our belief in the risen Lord Jesus Christ gives us freedom and power in any situation we find ourselves. During this Global Pandemic, let us believe that God still loves our world and wants to save us from this deadly disease. May the Risen Jesus ease our anxieties and fill our hearts with faith and hope that draw us near to God. Amen.

**By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar**