

Finding Encouragement in God's Word – Thursday in 4th Week of Easter May 7th, 2020. (Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20)

Brothers and sisters, our first reading tells us that when Paul and his companions entered the Synagogue in Pisidia, the officials of the Synagogue sent this message to them: “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the assembly, please speak up.” Of course, Paul and his companions had words of encouragement to share with the assembly. He narrated the history of God's plan of salvation for Israel leading ultimately to Jesus of Nazareth. In today's gospel Jesus also encouraged his disciples with the example of his life. Jesus says that the events of his life are part of God's plan and so he is telling them before they take place “so that you may believe that I AM.”

Dear friends in Christ, the Word of God is always one of encouragement that God gives to us every day. We may read it or hear it preached to us everyday making God's word a light for our path and a guide for our life. It is good practice if we start each day reading such “words of encouragement” and doing self-examination of conscience at the end of the day also based on God's words of encouragement. Having received God's words of encouragement, it is also our duty to also give encouraging words to others. I think people need this inspired word of God at this time of our current situation, to bring them comfort and consolation. Psalm 119:156 says that the Word of God revives our drooping spirit.

I would also like to invite you to join me in starting St. Corona Novena tomorrow. Traditional dates are from May 5th to May 13th, but you can pray it anytime since dates are optional. St. Corona lived in the second century, was martyred with St.

Victor in 170 AD. She is one of the patron saints of plagues, epidemics and pandemics. I will send the novena prayer in my next reflections so we can pray it anytime to end coronavirus. May Our Lady of Fatima and St. Corona intercede for us in this time of need. **Amen**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar