

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Sunday Reflection

Finding the Word of God

Cyrus allowed exiles to return to Jerusalem in 538 BC. Ezra returned. He left Babylon for Jerusalem in 458 BC. About 13 years later, 445 BC, Nehemiah joined Ezra in Jerusalem. The Torah was rediscovered in 444 BC. Ezra, the priest and scribe, with Nehemiah, the governor in chief, convoked all the people. Ezra brought the books of the Law of Moses before the assembly, climbed a higher wooden platform, and was surrounded by the elders of the people. Ezra opened the book and read it to the assembly. From early morning till midday, all the people were attentive and they listened to the law and its interpretation. They were all saddened to their soul. They had strayed from the Law. They wept for their wrong doings. Ezra and Nehemiah and all the scribes consoled the assembly: "This day is holy. Do not mourn or weep. Eat and drink. Give food to the poor to amend your sins." (Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10)

The evangelist Luke carefully investigated the stories of Jesus of Nazareth and he wrote an orderly account to his own friend, most excellent Theophilus, and his community. He urged them to welcome the story of Jesus as told by eyewitnesses. Jesus began his public ministry after he returned to Nazareth from the wilderness. He stood higher in the synagogue and read a passage that he found in the scroll of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." After the short reading, he gave his interpretation of the text, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The assembly listened attentively to the reading and its interpretation. (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

All the organs of the body met to elect their leader. They all claimed, "I should be in charge. What I do is vital." The rectum said the same thing. But everyone laughed at the rectum. He felt so shy and embarrassed and he shut down tight. A few hours later, the body could not fart or pass out gas. All other organs became restless. They all agreed and said, "Rectum! this time, you are in charge." The Word of God took flesh, the Body of Christ, the Church. Every part of the body is vital to the person. Every book, or scroll, or letter, is vital to the word of God. It is not healthy to envy one another. Everyone has something to offer. To keep the Body of Christ, the church needs everyone's gift. (1Corinthians 12:12-30)

Find your Bible and read the Word of God. Whenever God's word echoes, the listeners receive new scripts and new enlightenment for life. God's word is always alive to the listener's feelings and memories.

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