

GOOD NEWS THAT SPREADS LIKE FIRE

Acts 4:32-35; 1John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

After his bodily resurrection, Jesus appears several times among his disciples, who are still incredulous, scared and joyful at the same time.

In order to reassure them and to strengthen their weak faith, Jesus invites his disciples to come closer, to touch him and see for themselves that it is really Him!

He gives them his own Holy Spirit when he breathes on them, and tells them to not be afraid, but to welcome his peace, “Shalom”.

They are entrusted with his same mission: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:20).

He gives them the power to forgive sins, so that people may be reconciled to the Father. That is why Jesus came, and for that same reason he now sends his apostles to continue the mission of reconciliation and mercy.

A new era has dawned, a new people has been born as the first fruits of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. Those who believe in Jesus as Saviour, sent by the Father, and who observe his commandments, they prove that they are children of God (1John 5).

“The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possession, but everything they owned was held in common.” (Acts 4:32).

WHY?

Because they had found something much more precious than any earthly possession. They knew that the latter was only temporary, but the faith in the risen Jesus, and his love and mercy are everlasting: they fill the heart with peace and true happiness!

The power of their testimony is what gradually transformed the pagan and violent society of the time. Today is not much different. Our post-Christian society can only change when we Christians give testimony of unselfish lifestyle and authentic love of neighbour. As Pope Francis often reminds us: negative talk and gossiping don’t belong in a Christian vocabulary. They cause division and scandal.

The Church of Christ today needs more witnesses, and less teachers.

Witnesses of love: love of God and love of neighbour.

ONLY THE POWER OF LOVE WILL CAUSE THE GOOD NEWS TO SPREAD LIKE FIRE!