

This week we reflect on a text from John’s Gospel [12:20 – 33]. Some Greek Jews visiting Jerusalem ask to “see” Jesus. The rest of the text spells out for us what “seeing” Jesus really means. The starting point is the cross: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself”. To be drawn to Him is to enter into a deep knowledge and understanding of who He is. The words of Jeremiah in the first reading are fulfilled: “They will all know me, the least no less than the greatest, it is the Lord who speaks”. But how will they know him? By living a life like the one He lived: “wherever I am my servant will be there too”.

His death on the cross is the fulfilment of everything He came into this world for: “It is for this very reason that I have come”. In John’s Gospel the cross is the “Glory” of Jesus. The words of God the Father confirm this: “I have glorified it [the name of Jesus] and I will glorify it again”. This is the great mystery that is before our eyes when we look at Jesus upon the cross – it is the great revelation of who God is and it is the doorway for us to enter into this great mystery. There is no other way to know [see] God.

For reflection

“He who seeks not the cross of Christ seeks not the glory of Christ”. [St. John of the Cross]

“If we could but now fully understand how a soul cannot reach the thicket and wisdom of the riches of God, which are of many kinds, without entering the thicket of many kinds of suffering, finding in this her delight and consolation; and how a soul with an authentic desire for divine wisdom wants suffering first in order to enter this wisdom by the thicket of the cross. [St. John of the Cross].

“The love of the cross in no way contradicts being a joyful child of God”. [St. Edith Stein]

“The eyes of the Crucified look down on you – asking, probing. Will you make your covenant with the Crucified anew in all seriousness? What will you answer Him? “Lord, where shall we go? You have the words of eternal life”. [St. Edith Stein]

“If the cross is loved, it is easy to bear; this is certain”. [St. Teresa of Avila]

“Fix your eyes on the Crucified and everything will become small for you.....Do you know what it means to be truly spiritual? It means becoming the slaves of God - Marked with His brand, which is the cross. [St. Teresa of Avila]

“Here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over, to the pagans madness; but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength”. [1Cor 1: 24 – 25]