

Fr Callistus Khathali OMI



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – C

Luke 4:20b "And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him"

Nehemiah 8:3b

"All the people listened attentively to the book of the law"

One life changing gesture of Jesus in the gospels is fixing his gaze on individuals. We find it in the rich young man who had approached him about what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus looked at him and loved him (Mark 10:21) before giving him an answer that was to change his life. It was through the mutual gaze at each other that Mary Magdalene recognized the risen Lord (John 20:16), and became the first witness to the resurrection according to John.

In today's readings the gaze upon the Lord is done by the people. The focal point in our first reading (Nehemiah 8:2-5, 8-10) is **the book of the Law** that people listened attentively to. Jesus in the New Testament is the completion of the Law of old, and the focal point. After reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue, we are told that **all eyes of those who were in there were fixed on him**. This was even before Jesus began to speak. Jesus of Nazareth embodies everything about God, and is the fullness of God's revelation. This is what people were looking at; this is what we are all called to gaze upon.

Our second reading (1 Corinthians 12:12-30) brings to us an interesting angle of gazing upon Jesus. We all are part of this Jesus to be gazed upon as we are all members of his body. **This is how the Church is defined, different members that form one body of Christ**. Our call is therefore to be active members of this body, playing our active role to make sure that this body is healthy and alive. As St Paul tells us, if one part of the body is hurt, the whole body is hurt.

John saw the piercing of the dead body of the Lord on the cross as the fulfillment of the prophecy, "they will look to the one whom they have pierced."(John 19:37)

Pope Benedict XVI had this as the topic of his 2007 Lenten Message. The body of Christ finds itself sinful, corrupt, disobedient, infected with HIV, Covid 19, cancer, etc. This is the same pierced body that we are all called to gaze upon. Most importantly, we are called to heal this body by actively playing our part using our gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. Our people out there are crying out for the healthy body of Christ, the Church. Our people out there are in need of a life changing gazing upon the body of Christ, the Church!

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.
Have a wonderful Sunday.

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