

May 23, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD FROM MY FATHER

By David C. Robinson, SJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to the disciples: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

JOHN 15:12-17

Reflection

As we travel the trails of the Pauline mission among the diaspora Jewish and

Gentile communities, we witness a gradual unfolding of an inspirited grace that opens people's hearts to the true meaning of religious community and shared faith. The barriers of cultural bias or ideological rigidity only dampened their openness to the new surprise of God's life alive in them and among them as one people. Finally, the gift of the Spirit leads them to a unity of hearts, step by step, on the road of religious rebirth.

How appropriate that the companion Gospel from John 15 in today's readings expands the fraternal and familial dimensions of Jesus' commandment of love. He speaks of the 'greater love' that leads one to lay down life itself for one's friends. This is a spiritual mirror held up to Jesus' own sacrificial death. Those who choose to surrender to that fullest self-giving are indeed friends of their savior. They are not simply 'slaves' to religious practice, but instead are truly embraced by the spiritual trust of the one who told them 'everything he had heard from his father.' They have been chosen to bear 'enduring fruit' in their life with God, so that they may be fulfilled. Jesus ends with the same exhortation that he chose to incarnate the fulness of what his ministry, death, and resurrection mean for the completeness of truly human life and faithful community: **This I command you: love one another.** This commandment carries the same promise and surprise for each of us as we learn to walk the path of friendship with Jesus.



God the Father Contemplating the Dead Christ
By Vladimir Borovikovsky

For Pondering

- What does it mean to you to say that Jesus is your ‘friend?’
- What has your own openness to ‘love’ meant for your spiritual fulfillment and growth in faith?
- How has your connection to Jesus in your life deepened your closeness to God in your walk of faith?

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