



瀬田の丘



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Today's Word

Easter Sunday, Year A (10 May)

Parish Priest: Father Hiroshi Konishi

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5 - 8, 14 - 17

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15 - 18

Gospel Reading: John 14:15 - 21

On the Advocate

The term 'Advocate' appears in today's Gospel reading.

The original meaning of the Greek word 'Paraclete' —translated as 'Advocate' (New Common Translation, Franciscan Translation, Iwanami New Testament Translation Committee), or 'Helper'

(Japanese Bible Society Colloquial Translation). The original meaning of the Greek word 'Paraclete' derives from the verbs 'to call, to invite, to comfort' (New Bible Encyclopaedia, 'Helper'), and is a , and its function is to actively assist, defend, and support someone, much like a defence counsel in a court of law, defend and support someone" (Dictionary of Biblical Thought, "Defender"). "In Rabbinic literature, it refers to a friend who appears in court "refers to a friend who appears in court to defend the defendant's character and give testimony in his favour (New Common Translation Bible Dictionary of the Bible, 'Advocate'). In 1 John, Jesus is portrayed as the Advocate who is with the Father (2:1). Although Jesus promised his disciples that he would be with them always, as he did whilst he was with them.

In today's passage from the Gospel of John, it is said that after Jesus had departed, God the Father sent another Advocate to be with them always. 'Being with them' will be a key.

Context and Structure of Today's Gospel Reading

This is a passage from the 'Farewell Discourse'. Jesus speaks of the way to the Father (verses 14:1 - 14) → the promise of the Holy Spirit (verses 15 - 24) → words of farewell (vv. 25 - 31)

The Protestant theologian Rudolf Bultmann refers to verses 15–24 of Chapter 14 as ‘the loving relationship between the Son and the Father’ and divides it into three sections: (1) ‘The Promise of Another Advocate’ (vv. 15–17), (2) ‘The Promise of Jesus’ Return (verses 18–21), and (iii) ‘The Promise of the Coming of Jesus and the Father’ (verses 22–24).

The structure of today’s Gospel passage can be understood as follows.

- A (14:15) Beloved, keep my commandments
- B (14:16–17) The promise of the sending of another Advocate
- C (14:18) I will not leave you as orphans.
I will come back to you
- B’ (14:19–20) Jesus’ own promise of his return
- A’ (14:21) Beloved, keep my commandments

Let us look at the text. Verse 15 is a passage where opinions differ as to how it should be read. ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments’ (Franciscan Translation, New Common Translation, Association Translation) is the standard rendering, but it can also be translated as ‘...will keep my commandments’. The biblical scholar Raymond Brown combines verse 15 with verse 16, reading: ‘If you love me and keep my commandments, I will ask the Father’ and 16. If we do so, loving Jesus means keeping the commandments (‘Love one another’ —Chapter 13, verse 34).

As mentioned earlier, the ‘other Advocate’ in verse 16 is sometimes translated as ‘Helper’. Although Jesus will depart, but He will come again (14:3). The manner of His return is that He will come as the Advocate and Helper.

To what does ‘that day’ in verse 20 refer? Today’s reading makes frequent use of words relating to time, yet it directs the reader’s attention to ‘someday, at some point’. Admittedly, the setting is the Last Supper, so it likely refers to the time of His Passion, death and Resurrection, but might it not also other times as well.

In this way, Jesus says, ‘in a little while’ and ‘on that day’. We do not know exactly when that time is. However, the time will come when I ‘see’ (verse 19), ‘live’ (verse 19) and ‘understand’ (verse 20) will come.

Event Announcement

- 31 May (Trinity Sunday) Feast of Mary (Mass begins at 10.30 am)
Fukushima Vegetable Sale, Don Bosco Society Sale
- 7 June (Corpus Christi) First Holy Communion (Mass begins at 9.30 am)