

Live the Christian life daily

5th Sunday of Lent (April 6): (R3) John 12:20-33; (R1) Jeremiah 31:31-34; (R2) Hebrews 5:7-9.

Some Greek tourists were visiting Jerusalem. They wanted to see the sights of this famous city. It was the time of the Passover festival, and the streets were swarming with people. While there, they heard about a local celebrity who was making quite a name for himself. It was said that he had raised some man named Lazarus from the dead. The Greek tourists were intrigued. They sought out one of this celebrity's disciples — a man named Philip. Since Philip is a Greek name, they thought that he might help them meet his Master. They told Philip quite plainly, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus!"

This presented quite a problem for Philip. Until this moment, Jesus' ministry had been exclusively directed to the Jews. Philip was unsure what to do, so he found Andrew and together they went to find Jesus.

When they found Jesus, they told him that some Greeks wanted to meet him. They thought that Jesus would certainly want to meet people who traveled such a great distance. Jesus, however, surprised them. He didn't say a word about going to meet these visitors. Instead, he viewed this incident as a sign. "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," he said. Some day all people would look to him as Lord and Savior. These Greeks were just the first of people from every race and nation who would one day call on his name.

Jesus is lord of all. No person is excluded from him. All are loved by him — even people like Linda. Linda was a homeless cocaine addict. She was experiencing serious health problems from her addiction. Linda was in panic, not knowing what would happen to her and her young son.

One Sunday morning she wandered into a nearby church and sat in the last pew. She cried all through the service. But that morning Linda



Father **Albert Shamon**

A word for Sunday

heard the good news about Christ's love and forgiveness and about how to make a new start in life. She returned for many Sundays. She filled out a visitors' card, checking off that she needed help. So one of the parishioners visited her and told Linda that Jesus could help her. She prayed hard and soon she achieved victory over her cocaine addiction. She was enthusiastic and went to work with young people hooked on hard drugs. She brought hope and new life to many, many others. Like the Greeks, she wanted to see Jesus. She did and found a whole new life.

There is a second thing we need to see. There is a cost to being one of the followers of Jesus. Remember Gracie Allen, who played the scatterbrained wife of her husband, George Burns? In one routine, Gracie called in a repairman to fix her electric clock. The repairman fiddled with it for a while and then told her, "There's nothing wrong with the clock; you just didn't have it plugged in." Gracie replied, "I don't want to waste electricity, so I plug it in only when I want to know the time."

Isn't that an apt description of many people? They save religion for a rainy day. They go about unplugged and wonder why their lives are so devoid of power. How sad! The Christian faith is not something to be plugged in when it is convenient. The Christian life must be lived daily. And there is a cost involved. There is a cost in following Christ. However, the gain is worth the pain.

The time was fast approaching when Jesus would be put to death on the cross. He spoke once again to his disciples about it: "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say, 'Father, save me from this hour'? No. It is for this reason that I have come to this hour." That is a great statement of faith. "It is for this reason that I have come to this hour." Do we have that feeling about our life? Do we believe we are where God means us to be, and are we doing what God means for us to do?

Jesus had said that if he were lifted up, he would draw all to himself. There is a cost to following Christ, but the gain is worth the pain. He offers life and peace to all who come to him.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

Daily Readings

Monday, April 7
Daniel 10:1-9; 15-17; 19-30
15-17 or 19-21; 62
Psalms 23:1-6; John 8:1-11

Tuesday, April 8
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalms 102:2-3; 16-21
John 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 9
Daniel 1:14-20; 91-92; 95 (96)
Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42

Thursday, April 10
Genesis 17:2-9; Psalms 105:1-9
John 8:51-59

Friday, April 11
Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalms
18:2-7; John 10:40-42

Saturday, April 12
Ezekiel 3:1-21; 28 (29)
Jeremiah 17:10-13
John 11:45-50



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Kids' Chronicle Answers from page 12:
1. Abel, 2. brothers, 3. Cornelius, 4. David, 5. Esau, 6. faith, 7. God