

Reflection

Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 10.34-35

In this first reading of the 6th Sunday of Easter, Peter preached, “God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” Because salvation came from and through the Jews from the time of Abraham. Furthermore, to know and worship God, a Gentile had to convert to Judaism. Therefore, Peter’s sermon was alien to his audience at the time for they never considered that a Gentile could be redeemed outside of Judaism.

This means that salvation is independent of national identity, as Peter's preaching teaches us. But Jesus Christ's life and ministry are at the center of it all. Hence the devoted proclamation of God's witnesses causes it to spread to other people, thus, affecting everyone who has faith in Jesus Christ. We Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, which gave everyone fresh life and salvation, as well as his all-encompassing reign, on Easter. Consequently, Gentiles could thus be accepted into Jewish-Christianity without needing to undergo circumcision or adhere to certain dietary requirements. Peter believed that anybody may be "acceptable" to God even if they did not follow Jewish-specific cultic customs. In addition, God is a just judge who does not give in to bribes from the wealthy and powerful because He treats everyone equally. God doesn't see status, gender, race, or color. Only sin, which knows no bounds to race or creed, separates God and us.

To sum up, these verses also exhort us to strive for impartial and unconditional love for others. Nobody should be subjected to discrimination based on their gender, age, nationality, socioeconomic class, or religion. We will enter paradise if we try to do our best, for instance, if we don't harm anyone, and if we assist others. And Heaven is ours if we believe in Jesus and strive to do our best.