

Reading May 10th Easter

ACTS 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow,
the Hellenists {Greek speakers} **complained**
against the Hebrews because their widows
were being neglected in the daily distribution.

So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.

Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen,

a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

They presented these men to the apostles **who prayed and laid hands on them.**

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

I read: ΔΙΑΚΑΝΟΝ (in Greek)
He must have been an important
CIVIC as well as religious figure.

As I mentioned before, Acts paints a "perfect" picture of the Early Church, sharing everything!--BUT the reality was not quite perfect. More like today's Church, don't you think?

Here the Church 'invents' DEACONS and creates a ceremony:
... **prayed and laid hands on them.**
Below is a picture I took in Caesarea, Roman Capital of Palestine. It is a stone sarcophagus of a DEACON. Clearly an influential leader in 400 AD



PSALM 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. or: Alleluia.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,

To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you

The PSALM says the LORD will take care of those in need.

That was the JOB of the Deacon,
sort of like St. Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army,

1 PETER 2:4-9 [As I said before, this letter of Peter is the FIRST Papal Encyclical.]

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a ***holy priesthood** to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture:

Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. {Isaiah}

Peter returns again to “the Stone that the builders rejected cornerstone”

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

of the NEW Temple; the Church—you! YOU, People of God, ARE the cornerstone & foundation!

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. {for those who don't accept XT} They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

Then he says WE are “a chosen race, ***a royal priesthood,**” {I did my Masters’ Thesis on this.}

WE are the CORNERSTONE of the Church whose job is to offer the new sacrifice and praise to the LORD.

You are “a chosen race, ***a royal priesthood,** a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Luther exaggerated this idea, so it fell into disfavor for a while. We are NOT spectators!

Alleluia John 14:6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia

Think: {from last week} “I am the SHEEPS’ GATE” where those without blemish are chosen for the Temple.

GOSPEL JOHN 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.”

Thomas said to him, [notice the specific WHO questions him—**Thomas.**]

“Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life.

... have seen him?

No one comes to the Father except through me.

No, we haven't!

If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

YES, you have seen ME!

From now on you **do know him and have seen him.**”

I am = to God the Father

Philip said to him,

“Master, **show us the Father,** and that will be enough for us.” {**show us the Father!** I have!}

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”