



Thursday 29th Week - Year II

Luke 12:49-53

Jesus' words today are unsettling. "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."

What happened to the gentle Jesus? The Jesus who welcomes sinners and tells us to love our enemies?

He is still here. But today he reminds us that love requires courage. Following him will sometimes mean making choices that others find difficult to understand.

Perhaps you decide to forgive someone whom your family still resents. Perhaps you speak up when a colleague is being humiliated. Perhaps you feel drawn back to prayer, but worry that your friends will think you strange. In each case, following Jesus may disturb an otherwise comfortable peace.

We need to be careful here. Jesus is not giving us permission to be argumentative or to assume that every disagreement proves we are right. We can cause division through our own pride as easily as through our faithfulness. The question is whether our words and actions bear the marks of his love: patience, compassion, honesty and concern for others.

"I have come to bring fire to the earth," Jesus says. Think of the disciples on the road to Emmaus: their hearts burned as he spoke to them. Christ's presence brought them a new understanding, a new hope, and the courage to change direction.

That is a fire we can ask for.

Where have I grown comfortable with something that needs to change? Where is Jesus inviting me to speak, to forgive, or to take a small, courageous step?

Today, let us ask for a heart warmed by his love—and the grace to follow where that love leads.