

Homily for 5th Sunday of Easter

Two men were walking through the woods when they came across a very large, deep hole. They wanted to see how deep it really was. So they tossed in some pebbles and waited to hear the sound of them hitting the bottom. But they heard no sound. So then they decided to throw in some very large rocks. And, again, they heard no sound.

Looking around they noticed a rather large and heavy railroad tie at the edge of the woods. They went over and dragged the tie to the hole and threw it in. Not a sound came from the hole. Suddenly, a goat appeared, running like the wind. It rushed toward the two men, went right past them, running as fast as it could. Suddenly it leaps into the air and into the hole. The two men look at each, totally astonished.

Out of the woods came a farmer who spotted the men and hurried over. He asked them if they had seen his goat walking around. “You bet we did,” answered the men. “And it was the craziest thing we ever saw. It came running out of the woods and just jumped into the hole.” “Nah” said the farmer, “That couldn’t have been my goat. My goat was chained to a railroad tie.”

The poor goat was tied to something that pulled him down – way down. The question for us today is – what are we chained to? What

are we tied to? What pulls us down? We all have something we are tied to. For some it is a company, a business; for others it is a lifestyle. For some it is an addiction like alcohol or drugs; while for others it is an emotion like anger or revenge.

Christ would remind us in today's gospel that the only thing we should be tied to is Him. For if we are tied to Him, if we remain in Him, then we will abound with God's love. If we remain in Him, if we are tied to Him, we cannot be brought down we can only be raised up. If we are tied to Him, we will know what is right for us in our lives.

But how often do we forget this? How often do we go out on our own and allow the things that we think will make us happy to tie us down and rob us of the person that God wants us to be.

When we do not remain in Christ then we die. Without Christ we are lost. For Christ is our life. It is only in Him that we discover that God is greater than anything that is going on in our lives and in God alone is our strength.