

Homily for 5th Sunday of Easter

Two men were walking through the woods when they came across a very large and deep hole. They wanted to see how deep it really was. So they tossed some pebbles in 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 coming out of 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. But suddenly, a goat appears, running like the wind. It rushes toward the two men, then right past them running as fast as it can. Suddenly it leaps into the air and into the hole. The two men look at each other totally astonished.

Out of the woods comes a farmer who spots the men and ambles over. He asks them if they had seen his goat walking around. “You bet, we did,” answer 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.”

It was unfortunate that the goat was tied down to the railroad tie that ended up pulling down to the bottom of the pit. The question for us today is – What are we tied to and where is it pulling us? We all have something we are tied to. For some it is their work; for others, a lifestyle. For some it is an addiction; for others, an emotion like anger or revenge. For far too many of us it is being locked into one's own life with little or no concern for others.

Christ would remind us in today's Gospel that the only thing we should be tied to is Him. He says to us: "Have faith in me." And if we are tied to Him, if we have faith in Him, then we need not be afraid because we will abound with God's love. If we are one with Christ our hearts will not be troubled because Christ will touch our hearts and lead us in our life journey. To be one with Christ, to remain in Christ, to have faith in Christ is not to be dragged down for we can only be raised up.

In life it is easy to be tied to things that can ultimately destroy us. Christ begs us throughout this Easter Season to not let that happen to us. Rather let us be tied to Christ who is the way, the truth and the life...Christ in whom our heart finds rest and our lives discover the new life that God offers to us each and every day of our existence.