

Reflection on Matthew 28:16-20
The Holy Trinity Year B -31st May, 2015

Today's Gospel comes at the very end of Matthew's Gospel. The first thing we notice is there are only eleven disciples. The one that has broken away is absent – the Fullness of Love has been fractured and must be brought back into Wholeness. This call to Wholeness permeates the cosmos.

Matthew tells us that *when they saw Jesus* (this is the resurrected Jesus) *they fell down before him, though some hesitated*. This *hesitation* or doubt doesn't perturb Jesus one bit and he continued to *speak to them* regardless of their *hesitations*. The main point here is they *saw him* and the invitation for us is to keep listening deeply even if there are hesitations and doubts rising within us. As the disciples discover the Risen Christ living within them they are compelled or driven to enter into the Wholeness which has been fractured both within themselves and the world around them.

When we truly *see Jesus* we will open into this longing for Wholeness and we will long for it in ourselves and our world. This doesn't mean that we are to go out trying to convert or coerce people into a particular religion or belief we may follow. What it does mean is that just as we were created in Love and for Love we will long for everyone and everything, including ourselves, to awaken to what is already within us. There will be a *restlessness* within and moving through us urging us all toward this Wholeness. Once we truly *see Jesus* we will know the truth of this experience.

Jesus tells us that *all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*. This *authority* is Love itself and yet it is the one thing that seems so difficult for us to accept or enter into. Love at its deepest is never selective. Love doesn't consider what fits into my particular religious or political belief. Love when it is real transcends all of our prejudices, comforts and fears and takes us often into the unknown. It is a very risky business to be open to truly Love. It seems that most of us are perhaps not prepared to take such heavy risks. We walk so far in Love but we can find it almost impossibly difficult to move beyond our *hesitations* or doubts. Jesus will never stop urging us on – will never stop loving us and longing for us to discover this hidden Truth of Love. The urgings of Love living within us are in our DNA. It is as naturally a part of us as it is to breathe, but so often we don't know it is there or we resist its universal invitation and mostly we do this unconsciously.

The great Grace in all this though is that what we *doubt* today may well be transformed tomorrow or even in the next breath. This is the surprise of Love; we never know where or how it will lead us or teach us. Jesus tells us that his Spirit of Love *will be with us always*. Do we believe this? My own experience tells me we don't really believe it. We are forever trying to control things in our lives and in the lives of others. How many times do we proclaim a belief that Jesus is with us *always* only to discover or be painfully reminded through some life situation or experience that we were fooling ourselves? This discovery is Grace in action. It seems these experiences are repetitive right through our lives, and with each repetition we somehow grow in our belief that Jesus *is always with us*. But here too we discover how easy it is for us to forget the Jesus we proclaim to know is *always* with us. These little reality checks are great gifts and reminders when we can receive them. They remind us that we are never alone and that the Spirit of Love is alive and active in every breath we take.

Ruth Burrows tells us in her little book *To Believe In Jesus: To be truly living as Jesus wants us to live, at each moment we must be able to answer the question, 'What am I doing and why am I doing it?'* *This means we must have thought out and continue to rethink the principles which are to be the springs of our choices and actions, and these principles must be those which governed Jesus' life. There is really not one moment in life when we are not asked to choose, and the choice will always be between God or our self. Half the time we are not choosing but drifting along on whatever current is under us, acting on impulse, through routine, conforming to convention, answering expectations. This is not human living.* Page 62. Can we listen to that inner *Authority* living within each of us and urging us to grow Love in our world? Can we ask for the Grace to *KNOW Jesus is with us always* and open us into the mystery all of this is asking of us? Can we or will we risk trusting Love's call, inviting us into Wholeness?

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