



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast May 10, 2020

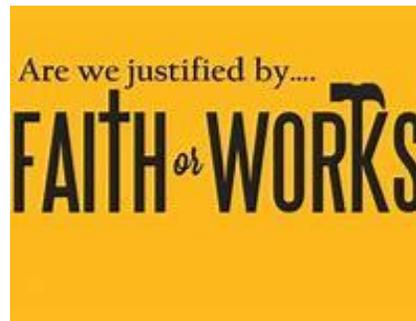
Happy Mother's Day!

Fifth Sunday of Easter Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A

- Acts 7:55-60; Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
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John 14:8-11: Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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 say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves."

"Not a sermon" . . . There is an age-old "argument," maybe *not* too strong a word, about what is more important: faith or works? Without getting down and wrestling in the mud about this, I suggest that the portion of today's Gospel has something solid to say.



The Apostles are asking naïve questions of Jesus, who is probably getting frustrated (as I imagine he does with all of us from time to time). He tells them that they have been following him, listening to him, and yet still have doubts about who he is and what the message is. Finally, he says, and I paraphrase, "*If you don't believe what I tell you, look at what I've done.*" Jesus's words are professions of faith and his actions and deeds are the

proof and the result of that faith.

To be honest I think most of us struggle with faith and action. Often our "faith tank" is close to empty, and we find it hard to act as we ought, as our "works tank" is empty too. Yet I believe there is a relationship and a solution: to Love and to Serve. If we can't seem to fill both tanks at the same time; start with one. After all, what are the two greatest commandments? "Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence." This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: "Love others as well as you love yourself." These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them." (The Message, Matt 22:37-40). May it be so. Amen.

This Week Prayers for . . .

- the soul of John, Carol, her family, and friends; healing of a friend with cancer; Kevin's continued health; Debbie and John; the Raquette Lake Chapel community.
- all who have died and those suffering from the COVID-19 virus; all healthcare workers; all providing essential services in our communities, and all those who have lost jobs and income and are facing an uncertain future.

A reminder: You can access all "Blasts," Newsletters, and videos through the Raquette Lake Chapel website at <http://www.raquettelakechapel.org/>
and scripture for Sunday can be found on <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>
Blessings! - Vance
