

Rectoría de San Juan de Dios
V Sunday of Lent-Cycle B
Jer 31, 31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5, 7-9; Jn 12, 20-33
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Let Us Accept Our Hour

Jesus knows the exact moment of the completion of His mission: "...*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...*" He is in the temple of Jerusalem, He gives His last public discourse; it is the evening of His arrest, and Jesus sees the moment of His being handed over to death.

The presence of the Greeks is the impetus for His remarks. Year after year, they went up to Jerusalem to worship the God of the Jews, not because He was their god, but because they were attracted to the God who had given a code of life to His people. Now those Greeks are no longer looking for the God of the Jews; now they are looking for Jesus.

It is not simple to accept that our hour has arrived. It involves all of our future actions and life itself.

When Jesus stands up and says decisively that His hour has come, what hour is he speaking of? Of the hour of the fulfillment of the mission for which He was sent by His Father. The Hour of Jesus is the hour that has come for the absolute donation of Himself, to give life. It is the effective hour to change history with a supreme manifestation of love; it is the hour of the fruitfulness that occurs only after death.

We can decipher the exact moment in our life for accepting our hour without fear of dying within the following four days, as happened to Jesus. To accept our

hour means correcting the course of our life, to begin a process of the giving of ourselves that will last for the rest of our life. Our hour involves living with a continual sense of urgency to complete the mission for which God gave us life; it gives a transcendent sense to our ephemeral existence.

There is no specific age for accepting our hour; when the moment arrives, it becomes a fountain of inexhaustible energy that stays strong by listening to the voice of God that accompanies us.

To accept our hour, the hour to be fruitful this Easter or in our life, we can try these three approaches:

1-Let us respond to God from our internal law.

The Law that God has written in our hearts allows us to know what He is like. If we respond to Him, we find that God is mercy and that His law frees us because it comes to the forefront to sustain us in trouble.

To know God through the Law written on our hearts leads us to live by this new and eternal Covenant, enjoying full communion with God and with others.

If we listen to our interior voice, which we can identify with our conscience, we will discern stages in our journey for accepting our hour.

2- Let us make common cause

The cause of Jesus is eternal salvation for all who obey Him. We take on this cause if we obey the plan of Christ instead of our own plan.

This is about obeying out of love for the good that God wants for others. To accept our hour has to do with obedience and gratitude. It means to be enthusiastic about

accompanying others and serving as instruments in God's plan of salvation.

3-Let us be fruitful.

Jesus gave us that image of a grain of wheat planted in the ground. It reminds us of the image of that seed planted in a glass vase, between cotton balls, that was used to teach us about the cycle of life when we were children.

To be fruitful like that seed, we must allow our soul to be inflamed and renewed so that a new and fruitful life emerges, a life that has no end.

We were sown in the ground when we were born, and with each day that passes, we are breaking through the ground, dying to our pride, our egotism, our vices, and our vanities so that our life becomes fruitful. It is about giving of yourself until you disappear.

It is a beautiful challenge, to free our capacity to love. We will find endless pathways for self-giving love. This is how the world, violence, and all attachment is overcome, but only if we are prepared to give a supreme proof of love as Christ did.

How long has it been since I have been fruitful? How long has it been since I confirmed my fruitfulness? If our hour has now arrived, it will make life worth living.