

...ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU WITH **SHORTER LEGS AND SMALLER HANDS... YOU'LL LIKE THIS. A FIRST GRADE CLASS IS HAVING FIRE SAFETY DAY. FIREFIGHTERS BRING A FIRE TRUCK AND TALK TO THE CHILDREN.**

ONE FIREMAN HAS THE KIDS PRACTICE WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A FIRE. HE HAS THEM FEEL THE DOOR TO SEE IF IT'S HOT. THEN, WANTING THEM TO STAY UNDER THE PRETEND SMOKE HE HAS THEM GET ON THEIR KNEES.

HE ASKS: DOES ANYONE KNOW WHY WE'RE DOWN ON OUR KNEES DURING A FIRE? ONE OF THE FIRST GRADERS ANSWERS RIGHT AWAY: SURE, TO START PRAYING FOR GOD TO GET US OUT OF THIS MESS!

THE STUDENT IS RIGHT, NO? PRAYER IS A GREAT THING TO DO WHEN WE'RE IN A FIRE, OR ANY KIND OF MESS. EVEN THOSE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WITH LONGER LEGS AND BIGGER HANDS NEED TO PRAY.

...LIFE IS FULL OF DISAPPOINTMENTS, FAMILY FIGHTS, CANCER, FINANCIAL FEARS, AND SEASONS OF GRIEF. WE JOIN THE DISCIPLES AFTER CHRIST ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN, AS THEY WONDER WHO WILL LEAD THEM.

UNTIL THE SPIRIT SHOWS UP TEN DAYS LATER AND LIGHTS A FIRE ON THEIR HEADS, THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE AUTHORITIES, LOST AS TO WHAT TO DO, AND UNSURE OF WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED THE LAST THREE YEARS!

EVEN AFTER THE PENTECOST FLAMES THEY HAVE PLENTY TO FIGURE OUT. THEY PRAY AN AWFUL LOT FOR GUIDANCE, STRENGTH, AND BLESSINGS FOR THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE ON THE STREET - THE LAME AND THE LOST.

HOW WONDERFUL THAT JESUS PRAYED FOR THE APOSTLES. HE KNEW LIFE WOULD BE DANGEROUS. ROMAN AND JEWISH GUARDS WOULD ARREST THE BOYS AND EVENTUALLY KILL THEM!

WE MAY NOT HAVE CROSSES LINING OUR STREETS, BUT PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS FOR SPEAKING UP ON ISSUES RELATED TO FAITH. WE MIGHT BE THROWN IN JAIL ONE DAY FOR OPPOSING LAWS REQUIRING US TO FORSAKE GOD'S WORD. THE WORLD IS INCREASINGLY PERILOUS.

IT CAN TOY WITH SPIRITS, HARDEN HEARTS AND DISTORT MINDS. JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS FOR LOVE OF SILVER. SATAN SIFTS PETER'S LOYALTY AS WHEAT, BUT CHRIST'S PRAYER STRENGTHENS HIS FAITH. WE WANT TO WALK WITH JESUS; PERSECUTION IS BETTER THAN DENYING HIM.

WHEN WE WALK WITH THE WORLD; LITTLE BY LITTLE WE LEAVE JESUS BEHIND. THE DISCIPLES JOSTLE FOR POSITION AND PRESTIGE IN GOD'S KINGDOM. THEY LEARNED THAT FROM THE WORLD; NOT JESUS.

HE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE GREATEST IN GOD'S KINGDOM IS THE SERVANT. STILL, WE GET JEALOUS, SELF-CENTERED, AND PETTY. WE HOLD GRUDGES AND GOSSIP, AND REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE KNOW THE BEST WAY TO DO ALMOST EVERYTHING.

2 WE OFTEN FEEL POWERLESS TO RESIST SIN AND THE PRESSURE OF THIS WORLD, DOESN'T HELP. THE SHAME CAUSES SOME TO GO IT ALONE; CHURCH MAKES THEM FEEL GUILTY, SO THEY STAY AWAY.

OTHERS GO ALONG WITH THE WORLD AND EVENTUALLY GIVE UP ON GOD'S WORD ALTOGETHER. WE ALL WALK TOO CLOSE TO THE WORLD. THE DANGER IS MULTIPLIED WHEN WE AVOID GOD'S TRUTH AND GRACE.

OUR COMMUNION IN CHRIST SHOULD BE THE HEART OF LIFE. IF WE CAN'T OOPS OR YES EACH OTHER, WE MIGHT AS WELL BE OF THE WORLD, WHERE WE ONLY TOLERATE EACH OTHER. IF WE DECIDE OTHERS ARE NOT WORTH OUR TIME, OUR FAITH IS IN JEOPARDY. WE NEED TO KEEP THE WORLD OUT OF THIS PLACE. LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

YET, IF WE SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE WORLD COMPLETELY, THE WORLD IS LEFT WITHOUT JESUS; NO LIGHT TO SHINE ON HEADS OR IN HEARTS! THIS WORLD IS SICK, BUT WITHOUT OUR FAITHFUL WORDS AND ACTIONS, WE'RE LOOKING AT FULL DECAY AND DARKNESS! WE CAN'T STAND BY AS THE WORLD MESSSES UP TRUTH AND MISSES OUT ON GRACE.

^{Before} ^{Ascends into heaven} JESUS WALKS IN THE WORLD, DOESN'T HE? IN FACT, HE IS CRITICIZED FOR HANGING OUT WITH SINNERS AND REPUBLICANS...OH, PUBLICANS, HATED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. JESUS CARES DEEPLY FOR THOSE STUCK IN THE WORLD BECAUSE HE KNOWS MANY OF THEM WANT OUT.

THE NIGHT HE'S BETRAYED, HE PRAYS: HOLY FATHER, PROTECT THEM BY THE POWER OF YOUR NAME. DON'T TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD; BUT PROTECT THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE,

IN CHRIST, YOU'RE PROTECTED BY YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S NAME - THAT IS, BY HIS TRUTH AND HIS GRACE! JESUS FULFILLS IT ALL FOR YOU. IN HIM, YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE; FREEING YOU TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR OTHERS AND TO SERVE YOUR NEIGHBOR IN HUMBLE LOVE. THAT INCLUDES TALKING ABOUT JESUS AND PRAYING TO GET THEM OUT OF THIS MESS!

PRAYER IS OUR DEFENSE AGAINST SATAN AND HIS ROTTEN WORLD. THE WHOLE WORSHIP SERVICE IS ONE BIG PRAYER - A CONVERSATION WITH OUR FATHER, THROUGH CHRIST, LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

IN THIS PRECARIOUS WORLD, WE HAVE DIVINE DELIVERANCE. IT'S CONFIRMED IN OUR BAPTISMAL ABSOLUTION AND THE VERY BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS. WE CELEBRATE THAT TOGETHER IN THIS PLACE.

NO MATTER ^{How Rotten} THE CIRCUMSTANCE, YOU HAVE THE PEACE WHICH SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING. SO, DO YOUR BEST IN THIS WORLD BY STANDING FIRM ON YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S WORD, ^{BY} THE SPIRIT'S FIRE OF CONVICTION, AND ^{to} FORGIVING LOVE BECAUSE CHRIST IS CRUCIFIED AND ...CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

8- Prepare/Prayer

9- Catechism p. 322

1st Article