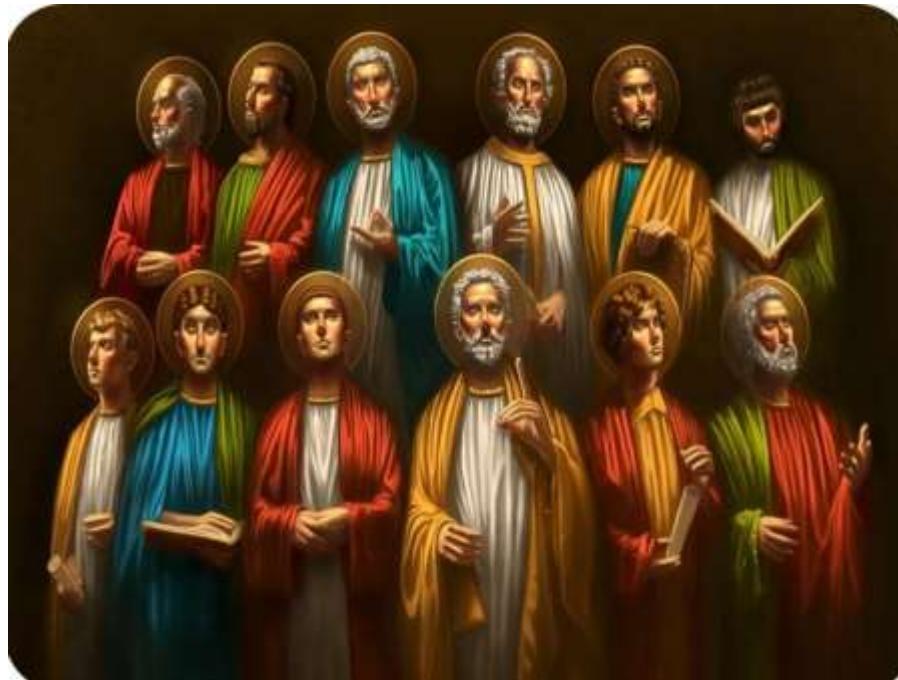


The Apostles Proclaim the Kingdom



Jesus did a great miracle in front of everybody, to a demon-possessed person who is blind and mute, three miracles in one act.

The crowd was amazed. How can a human being and a Son of David do this kind of thing?

However, the Pharisees were bothered, accusing Jesus of doing that by the power of Beelzebul - the ruler of the demons.

How can you be blamed and accused for doing something so good like this miracle?

My dear friends, it is not strange how many people were treated unfairly despite the goodness that they did.

We are experiencing that many times in our life. We are imperfect; however, Jesus is perfect, He is the goodness itself and yet they saw in him a Beelzebul servant.

This is terrible, when you see the white as black, principles as taboo, male as female and right as wrong.

This is not the society that we are living in nowadays?!

Jesus knew their thoughts; he knew what they were thinking about him.

Jesus knows our thoughts even before expressing them. He knows where our hearts are and what we stand for, our intentions, our schemes and tactics.

You cannot be indecisive in front of Jesus, He is clear: “He who is not with me is against me.”

You cannot be with Jesus and against him at the same time, as we do with each other being fake nice people.

Jesus specifies two kinds of blasphemies: all the blasphemies on one hand and on the other hand the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

What is the difference?

You may not like a specific person for many reasons but you cannot Satanize him or her, make them satanic because of your feelings or some other considerations whatever will be.

The Pharisees felt a threat in the presence of Jesus, they were afraid of losing their power, they were jealous, Jesus did what they couldn't, they had different expectations of who the coming Messiah is and Jesus didn't fit their criteria.

I like what Saint Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians: “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is extremely important in our life. He is the one who reveals the truth for us.

Each time we say and do what Jesus wants from us we are declaring Him as Lord and in doing the opposite of that, we are announcing him as accursed.

The Holy Spirit disclose the truth. The Truth itself is not enough if we don't acknowledge and accept it.

And who is the one who explains it and helps us in understanding it? The Holy Spirit.

The Pharisees saw Jesus, the incarnated Truth but this doesn't change anything in their attitude towards him.

For this reason, we understand why this kind of sin is not forgiven, because it is a so clear truth, as crystal. Jesus continues by saying:

"Sin against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

This means we don't want the truth; we make up our minds, and this is our final decision. We think that we are our own gods, we are perfect, extremely righteous and much better than all others. We are unchangeable. Even Jesus and his salvation becomes not needed anymore, thus why do we need to be forgiven?

You don't see these people in your life? When you talk with them trying to explain and help them, they shake their heads, but your words are like echo, you are wasting your time. In Arabic we have a saying: "knock the water it will stay water."

"But each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

The Holy Spirit purpose is the common good. However, our purposes unfortunately as human beings are our own good. From this we can know if our purpose is godly or not.

Only through the Holy Spirit we can Know Jesus, the Truth, the common good maker, the Healer, the forgiving, the Lord...

Come Holy Spirit, come.

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk