



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day
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Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter

*"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.
And they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know the one who sent me."*

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples; He challenges us to be ready for the reaction we will meet when we strive to live out his command to love others as He loves them.

The resistance, subtle or overt, that we experience as we try to live out the Gospel is grounded in others' not knowing the Father, "*the one who sent*" Jesus.

The key then to successful evangelization, to sharing the Good News of God's love, is knowing the Father, who "*... so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*"

The whole purpose of Jesus' ministry was to reveal the Father and his love for all, especially, for those who we might consider unlovable. It was Jesus' fidelity to his mission which eventually would lead him to Golgotha and his death. The Father confirmed Jesus' message and ministry when he raised Him from the dead.

How well do we know the Father? What is our image of Him? How well does our image of the Father reflect that of Jesus'?

Do we see the Father as a Santa Claus who gives us blessings if we are good or black coal if we are bad? Do we see him as a severe Judge who is keeping track of our every wrong and will get us at the end? Do we see him as indifferent, aloof, and uncaring?

Our understanding, our image of the Father will influence, will impact, will shape how we pray, how we live out our lives as Christians, how we witness to Jesus and the Gospel, how we evangelize!!

Jesus summed up his image, his understanding, his relationship with his Father by the word "*Abba*" and all the tenderness which that word meant in his native tongue, Aramaic.

Jesus shared with us his image, his understanding, his relationship with his Father when he taught us to address his Father, his "*Abba*" as our Father, our "*Abba*".

Do we know and cherish God the Father as our "*Abba*"?

Do we share Jesus' "*Abba*", our "*Abba*", with those who "do not know the one who sent" Jesus?