

Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. (Jn 6:68-69)

Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God; to accept or reject the truths He has revealed through His prophets and especially through His Son who offers us eternal life. The disciples of Jesus had to make a choice; to stay with Jesus or go away. Was He the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations? And if not to Him, to whom they shall go? They were to make their life decision; the kind that determines the fundamental direction they will take and consequently, influence every other decision they will make. Peter as the spokesperson of the group made three bold assertions. First, there is no one else to go.

Peter and the other disciples had been with Jesus for some time. They had heard His lips utter words of forgiveness. They had seen His hands touch to heal the sick, the lame, the leper and to raise the dead to life. All that is human, noble and spiritual in a person, they had seen in Jesus. All that is eternal in God, they had seen it in Jesus. That is the reason Peter said to Jesus; *Lord, to whom can we go?* Peter clearly asserts that apart from Jesus there is nothing truly worthwhile. Secondly, Peter asserts that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Jesus is the link between temporality and eternity, between Heaven and earth. He broke His body and shed His blood to give eternal life. Anyone who believes in Him and participates worthily in the Eucharist will have eternal life. Thirdly, Peter asserts that Jesus is the Holy One of God. In the touch of Jesus, Peter saw the touch of God. In the words of Jesus, he saw the life-giving eternal words of God and in the person of Jesus, he saw the glimpse of the glory of God. Therefore, he said to Jesus, *we believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*

Peter and the other disciples chose to stay with Jesus because of the personal involvement of Jesus in their lives. This decision determined their identity. They paid the price and received the reward of the choice they made. The choices we make really determine the character of our union with God. If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. Faith is a gift which God freely gives to those who listen to His word and who put their trust in Him. Faith is a personal response to God's revelation of Himself. Faith is neither blind nor ignorant. It is based on the truth and reliability of God's word. Jesus has the words of eternal life. The world does not have these words and yet we are tempted to listen to the noise of the world. The devil does not have these words and yet we are tempted to listen to him. We can know God personally and grow in recognizing His voice as we listen to His word and do His will. Do we believe, as Peter did, that Jesus has the words of eternal life and the power to change and transform our life? And can we say like Peter, *Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. (Jn 6:68-69)*

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