

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Rather than writing about the Gospel of John, I want to look at the Letter to the Hebrews. It is unclear who wrote this letter. Most Scripture scholars do not believe that Paul wrote it, however there is much evidence of Paul's theology. It is believed the author is a Jewish Christian, probably newly baptized and seeking a safe place of refuge in time just before the destruction of the Temple 70 AD.

Though this second reading for today is only 3 verses, it is packed with wonder. The word that catches my attention is "reverence". "And he was heard because of his reverence". In my search I found this: Reverence implies profound respect mingled with love, devotion, or awe. The author has learned through his observance of Christ Jesus that his prayer, his respect for God was not simple words but a depth of awe, a depth of respect. In another source I found "Reverence presupposes an intrinsic merit and inviolability in the one honored and a similar depth of feeling in the one honoring." Notice the words **Intrinsic merit**. The word intrinsic refers to belonging to the essential origin or nature of a thing. In other words, in reverencing God, Christ Jesus recognizes the original nature of that which received reverence. i.e., GOD. Jesus knows God; knows God in the depths of his being. Also notice "and a similar depth of feeling in the one honoring". In humor, that ole adage stands it takes one to know one. And I mean this with respect, it is the nature of God IN Jesus to KNOW God, the Origin. And it is through obedience and suffering that he, Jesus came to know who he was/is, and came to this Fullness/perfection as the source of our salvation. Jesus learned his own identity as the Son of God as he recognized his own intrinsic self. As he came to know his Father, he came to know his SELF, his origin, in reverence.

Now what does this say for us? It challenges me to think of what [or who] do I reverence, and what does that call me to?