

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022

As this new infant church began, the teachings and preaching's of the Apostles drew members from both the Jewish community and the Gentile Community. The Rules of the synagogue soon became a challenge to the new Gentle converts. Many of the original Jewish leaders were demanding that the new members needed to follow the Jewish law, mainly to be circumcised. As you can imagine, the Gentle believers where eager to belong and participate in the decisions and rituals of this Congregation, but not to be circumcised. So, the leaders of the Jerusalem church sent an envoy to Antioch, including Judas and Silas, to bring the true teachings of the Apostles. After discussion with Peter Paul and Barnabas, the decision was made:

“... it is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals and from unlawful marriage”.

By the time that the Book of Revelations was written, the temple in Jerusalem was totally destroyed. In the last chapter of this writing, we now understand that the importance of the Temple has been lost. So, the center of gatherings now rests in the Members, in the gathered Community.

“I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb”

The focus has shifted from the building of the Temple to the Body of the Believers. Today the Catholic Church emphasizes the theology of the Body of Christ as the Dwelling place of the Spirit. In todays Gospel we have the promise that the Father and Son [and we can assume] the Spirit will come and “make our dwelling with him”. The Jesus of the Incarnation and the Jesus of the Resurrection are one and the same. He DWELLS on Earth within his people. He is within us.

As the Resurrected One, and the Spirit of God, as Jesus said on the Cross “it is finished”.