

Novena for Paolo

Third Day

From the Sunna

Also on the authority of Omar, who said:

One day while we were sitting with the Messenger of God there appeared before us a man whose clothes were exceedingly white and whose hair was exceedingly black; no signs of journeying were to be seen on him and none of us knew him. He walked up and sat down by the Prophet. Resting his knees against his and placing the palms of his hands on his thighs, he said: “O Muhammed, tell me about *Islam*”. The Messenger of God said: “Islam is to testify that there is no god but God and Muhammed is the Messenger of God, to perform the prayers, to pay the Zakat, to fast in Ramadhan, and to make the pilgrimage to the House if you are able to do so.” He said: “You have spoken rightly”, and we were amazed at him asking him and saying that he had spoken rightly. He said: “Then tell me about *Iman*.” He said: “It is to believe in God, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day, and to believe in divine destiny, both the good and the evil thereof.” He said: “You have spoken rightly”. He said: “Then tell me about *Ihsan*.” He said: “It is to worship God as though you are seeing Him, and while you see Him not yet truly He sees you”.

Hadith #2 from An-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths

Words from Paolo

“The Arabic word for truth is ‘hakk’,” Dall’Oglio tells us. “But ‘hakk’ also means God and justice. It can be used to refer to fundamentalism, jihad, confrontation and conflict, but it should become the word we use to express our passion. After all, the future depends on the choices we make, the people we meet and the decisions we take in our lives. The truth is not a list of dogmas. It is something that happens. The truth speaks to us, attracts us and offers itself to us. If we are receptive, curious and eager to connect with one another, the truth will feel at home with us and amongst us.”

Interview with Campus Insight of KU Leuven, January 2009

From the Gospel according to Saint John

Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'

'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'

He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.'

'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'

The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'

Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.'

Jn 4:5-26