

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

May 21, 2023 • 7th Sunday of Easter • John 17:20-26

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

This is part of Jesus' farewell prayer for his disciples. In his final hours, Jesus raises his eyes to heaven and prays to his Father. He reminds the Father that he has revealed all he was sent to reveal to those who were sent to him. He prays for us, his followers, and offers glory to God in heaven.

At Mass, one of my favorite prayers is the "Gloria." I love to sing this prayer. It is so majestic. Sometimes when I come to Sunday mass in a so-so mood, I join in the singing of the "Gloria" and I feel my spirits lift. Today's Gospel, however, tells us that giving glory to God involves more than our voices or words, and has nothing to do with our moods.

According to this reading, when we want to give glory to God, our actions will speak louder than our words. Read again Jesus' prayer to his Father. Like Jesus, we glorify God when we are doing the work God gave us to do.

The work list is different for each of us, designed according to our own unique talents and limitations. Some of us give glory to God by being a part of the choir or a lector. We give glory to God by working in a soup kitchen or teaching religious education at the parish. We glorify God by becoming police officers, teachers, factory workers, doctors, lawyers, or missionaries.

For parents, the toughest work God has given us is to raise our children to be spiritually, emotionally and physically healthy adults. We give glory to God by sharing our paychecks and the best of our time and energy with our families. We give glory to God with every peanut butter and jelly sandwich we make, with every dish we wash. We give glory to God when we use our gifts and talents to share who we are with those God has entrusted to our care.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Name each family member's specific talents. Discuss how they can use their talents to give glory to God.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Where are you in your relationship with God? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?