

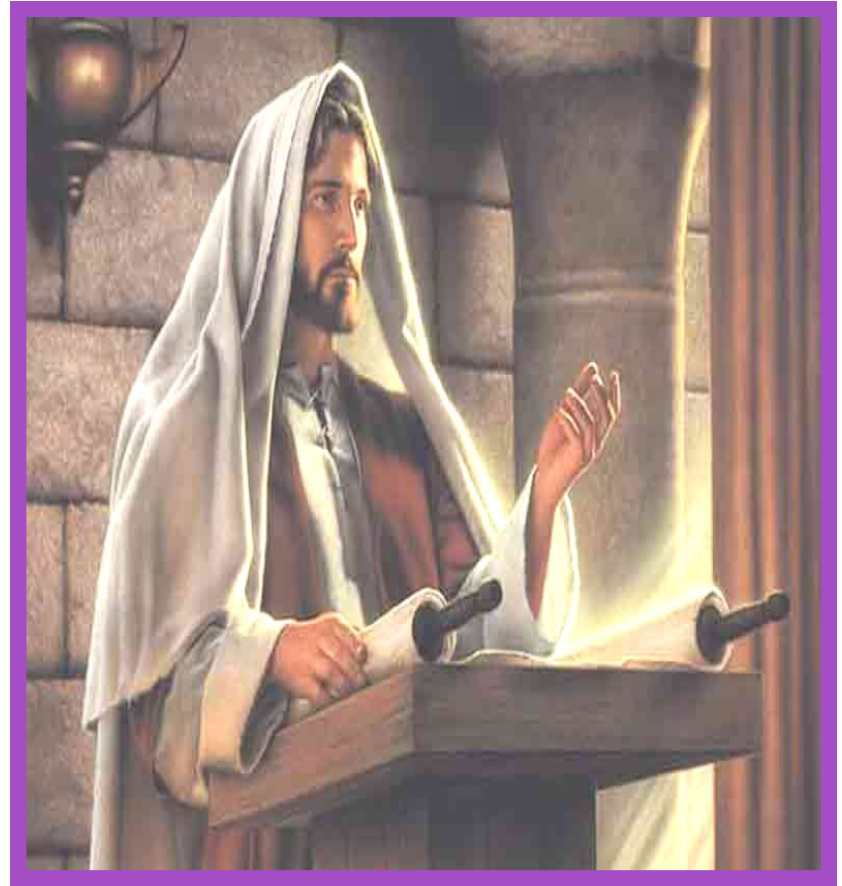
This had been lacking in Peter when terrified at the questioning of the servant maid he had not had the power to give true testimony... After the Lord's Resurrection Peter was tested by the Prince of Generosity (Jn. xxi. 15), and restored him to calm; there he denies Whom he loved, here he showed his love for Him Whom he had denied.

Even this very love was weak and narrow until it was enlarged and made strong by the Holy Spirit. After the fullness of grace was poured into Peter's soul, the spirit within burned to bear witness to Christ, unsealed the trembling lips that had withheld the truth... he shone out above all the rest in bearing witness to Christ, and confounded those who had slain Him by his witness to the Resurrection (Acts ii. 5)... Amen.



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**SERMON ON
THE COMING OF THE PARACLETE
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
156 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

***SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE
OF THE ASCENSION***

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 2 - Pages 1360 - 1361 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of John 15: 26-27; 16: 1-4

by: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

The Lord Jesus Christ, being now near His Passion, and soon to leave them in His Bodily Presence, though in His Spiritual Presence He would be with them till the end of the world, encouraged them in the words He spoke to them after the Supper to bear steadfastly the persecutions of the ungodly; whom He calls *the world*. Yet it was from this world He had chosen the Disciples (Jn. xv. 19), so that they might know it was by the favor of God they are what they are; they were what they were because of their own sins.

He clearly states that the Jews were both His persecutors and theirs, and this is what he meant by the name *world*, which was condemned because it persecuted the saints... He comes to the point where He says: That the word may be fulfilled which is written in their law: *They hated me without cause* (v. 25).

Continuing, He adds: *But when the Paraclete cometh, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, he shall give testimony of me; and you will give testimony of me; because you are with me from the beginning*. What does this have to do with what He said: *But now they have both seen, and hated both me and my father; but that the word may be fulfilled which is written in their law: They hated me without cause?* Is it that when the Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth, comes He will convince those who both see and hate by yet clearer proofs? In fact at His coming He did convert some of those who saw to that

faith which worketh by charity (Gal. v. 6).

So that we may understand this let us recall to mind what happened. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the hundred and twenty people who were gathered together, among whom were the Apostles, who, being filled with the Holy Ghost, began to speak in the tongues of every nation. Many of those who hated, were astonished at so great a miracle, were changed in heart and converted... They received pardon because of the precious blood so blasphemously and inhumanely spilled. They were redeemed by the blood they had shed.

The Blood of Christ was shed for the remission of all sins, so it had the power to forgive also the sins by which it was shed. Having this in mind He therefore said: *They hated me without cause: But when the Paraclete cometh, he shall give testimony of me*: that is to say: they hated Me, and seeing Me they put Me to death: but such will be the testimony the Paraclete shall give of Me, that it will make those who do not see Me believe in Me.

And you, He says, shall give testimony, because you are with me from the beginning. The Holy Ghost and you shall give testimony since you were with Me from the beginning. You can preach that which you have seen; that you do not so now is because you have not yet the fullness of this Spirit. *He shall give testimony of me, and you shall give testimony of me*. The charity of God that is poured forth into your hearts by the Spirit that will be given to you, shall give you courage to give testimony.