



A REMARKABLE PROMISE

Jesus made many promises, but surely one of the most remarkable is to be found in John 14:12, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.' Immediately, a question arises, what exactly had Jesus in mind when he said this? We know, firstly, that Jesus related to people mercifully and lovingly and acted accordingly. Secondly, through his preaching and teaching, Jesus proclaimed the good news and made many converts. Thirdly, Jesus demonstrated the coming of the kingdom by performing deeds of power, such as healings, exorcisms and miracles.

Many scripture scholars believe that although the early Church performed deeds of power, these powers were withdrawn once it was well established. As a result, they interpret the promise of Jesus in John 14:12 as a reference to the fact that nowadays, evangelisation by Christians will be more effective than that of Jesus during his short two and a half years of ministry. Unlike many Protestants, the Catholic church does not believe that the charisms of power were withdrawn. So, it is not surprising that great Johannine scripture scholars such as Ray Brown and Rudolf Schnackenberg maintain

that Jesus was promising his disciples down the ages that they would be able to perform the healings, exorcisms and miracles that he had performed. Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged this when he wrote, 'What the New Testament describes with reference to the charisms as visible signs of the coming of the Spirit is not merely ancient, past history: this history is becoming a burning reality today.'

What did Jesus mean when he said that believers would do even greater things than he had performed? There was one thing that Jesus never did during his public ministry. He never prayed for anyone to receive the infilling of the Spirit, because he was

unable to do so. As he explained, 'it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you' (Jn 16:7). When Jesus yielded up his Spirit to God on the cross, it could finally be poured out on believers. Nowadays, Christians like you and me can pray effectively, often with the laying on of hands, for people who want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

— Pat Collins

After the Consecration

The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Jn 15:1.5)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Reflection

Recall a moment of difficulty in which you were helped by turning to Jesus.



Lesson

Jesus said: Remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time.



Prayer

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.