



I just read on the internet that a person called Knox Peden converted to Catholicism fascinated by Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. "The more I read, the more his teachings attracted me," he declared in the article. The Church's commitment to the ecological crisis, it can be said, was a sign or a signal that helped Peden discover something more existential that led him to embrace the Catholic faith.

What other signs or signals can help you believe in Jesus today and follow him in the Church?

In every period the Church is called to be a sign of the Kingdom of God announced by Jesus. In this Sunday's Gospel we emphasize the value of the sign, which helps us to see who Jesus is and, from there, to believe in Him.

Gospel

Jn2:1-11 wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the feast had all been used, and the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the president of the feast.' They did this; the president tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from -- though the servants who had drawn the water knew -- the president of the feast called the bridegroom and said, 'Everyone serves good wine first and the worse wine when the guests are well wined; but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of Jesus' signs; it was at Cana in Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.



REFLECTION

In the context of a wedding, Jesus transforms water into wine. St. John says that this is "the first of the signs that Jesus performed." The word "sign" is used to refer to the action carried out and is used by others to believe. This is what follows from the conclusion of the Gospel: "his disciples believed in him."

As with the first disciples, Jesus throughout our lives has shown us signs of his saving presence: a close witness, an experience of solidarity in unexpected circumstances, accompanied suffering, a moment of welcome in the Christian community, etc. These experiences, sometimes, have been true "founding experiences" that have moved us to something else, to desire the life of Jesus, to have "his same feelings." It is His spirit that permeates us and urges us to live in a new way in Him and like Him. Living in this way, Christians become "signs", "signals" of the presence of Jesus in the World, at the hour that we have to live.

Today, for example, our "hour" is marked not only by the ecological crisis, but also by the "green conscience" of many citizens. This environmental concern is valuable in itself, a true sign of the times. But also, this hypersensitivity, in many cases, has led to a certain "green marketing", that is, a discourse or propaganda of environmental care practices is assumed, but without resignations, without substantive changes. In this context, Christians, without a doubt we cannot disregard or ignore the ecological problem, but our response involves our faith, our values, all the dimensions of our Christian life: what we believe, celebrate, live, and pray, as believing community.

For us, the concern for the care of our common home supposes, of course, to consider ecological conversion and the practice of new ecological virtues (cf. Laudato Si [LS] 88), such as "self-limitation, and sensitivity to the vulnerability of life alien". "Only from the cultivation of solid virtues is it possible to donate oneself in an ecological commitment. If a person, although their own economy allows them to consume and spend more, usually covers up a bit instead of turning on the heating, it is assumed that they have incorporated convictions and feelings favorable to caring for the environment" (LS 211).

In conclusion, we can say that the ecological commitment of the christian is a sign of the Kingdom of God in the world. A life devoted to the care of creation and of the most vulnerable, without a doubt, is a sign of the presence of Jesus in the believing community, it is a sign that the man of this time can understand in order to decide to follow Christ.

Am I willing to show Christ by living my ecological commitment, incorporating ecological virtues in my life?

PRAYER

Lord, that from your love we can be in solidarity in the care of our neighbor and our sister Earth. Give us an open heart, a deep sensitivity to intuit the needs in the world and give ourselves to the common good. Amen