



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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“I tell you what I have seen in the Father’s presence;
then do what you have heard from the Father.” (John 8:38)



By his very life and presence, Jesus lived what he had seen “in the Father’s presence.” His life embodied unconditional love, radical inclusion, healing, unlimited forgiveness and mercy, and nonviolent action. Everywhere in the Gospels—no matter which Gospel you read—the same Jesus is presented. How he is portrayed is quite clear. One may quibble over some of his words (example: the words of Matthew 10:34, where Jesus says, “I have come to bring not peace but the sword.”), but such words are often removed from the context and misinterpreted so that they contradict the larger message.

We have only to look at the white Christian Nationalist Movement, which is very much alive in our country now, to realize how much the overall message of Christ has been subverted, distorted, and reduced to the opposite of who Jesus (and thus God) really is. Jesus lived what he knew, first-hand, God to be. And he called forth his followers down through the ages and for all time to do the same.

To live the way Jesus did, we, too, have to live in God’s very presence through the prayer and contemplation that leads to the actions that are the outreach of God in our world. In this manner, we are God’s eyes, ears, and hands wherever we may find ourselves.

There is a caveat here: Such living like Jesus will lead us into the very heart of the Paschal Mystery. After all, it led Jesus there. Our own blood may be shed. But isn't that what makes our own blood precious? It's not just Jesus's blood that is precious. The Precious Blood of Christ is in us, the "image of that divine charity of which blood is the sign, expression, measure, and pledge" (words of St. Maria De Mattias, ASC, foundress) That same meaning animates the Precious Blood communities of reconciliation and restorative justice, where encounter and compassion bring healing and hope. How can we be sure? We know this because we "have seen in the Father's presence."

Shirley Bessette is an Associate and Sojourner with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. To learn more about these programs, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family.

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If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org