

FR.TK." REFLECTIONS 5th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 2023.

HUMAN AND DIVINE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS:

I am, because we are, and since we are therefore I am.prof.J.s.mbiti.

This statement carries a lot of weight as far as the communal background of a person is concerned. The idea is that a man is not an island and he belongs to the community from African context. It is clearly seen during different events like in **birth of children, naming, passing from one stage to another, marriages, sickness and more in death.**

There is practical participation of all in the community. In death people visit the bereaved family **mourn, console and support in different ways.** Women bring water, firewood, foodstuff, men maps and contribute money for the funeral expense through and youth will eventually dig the grave. Catholic church in Africa is using this tool in evangelization through creating **(small Christian communities) very effective tool.**

Today's gospel (**John 11:1-45**) has such a setup, Mary and Martha had lost their Brother Lazarus, the Jews had gathered together in their home to **console the family.** Jesus being their friend visited them. It is here that we meet and see **both human and divine nature of Jesus being manifested.** His **presences, compassion and consolation** are all seen in the communication with the two sisters and the gathering (Jn.11:17-35) Jesus was touched by the situation that he showed his humanity fully by **weeping in their presence (Jn.11:35 Jesus wept).**

Together with all these human elements we see Jesus taking control of the situation, **where have you laid him, he ordered the stone to be taken away (11:39), He engaged in prayer to the father (11:40),** then He cried out in a loud voice **Lazarus come out (Jn.11:43).** He came out his hands and feet bound with linen, Jesus said to them **untie him and let him free (Jn.11:44).** **The divine power is seen by raising Lazarus from death to life.**

He is powerfully proclaiming by **word and deed that death is not a final ending but an opening to eternal life.** He is telling us **I am the**

Resurrection and who ever believes in him will never die thus demonstrating his power over death(Jn.11:25).He is showing us that death is not the final curtain as that curtain comes down,another one goes up.

He is inviting you today that you may look and see what **stone and linen** in your life that needs to be **removed and being set free**.The stones of **hatred,pride, selfishness, envy,pretense anxiety** all these **binds and hold** us and we need to emerge from them and impress Jesus **loosening them through His Grace**.

We should realize the fact that death is a reality,it's part of our life,we are born to die,we face little deaths before the final death.Every time we pass from stage of life to another something dies in us and another **springs up**.we taste death in moments of **discouragement, loneliness,rejection,sorrows,dissappointments,living in isolation,hatred bitterness,giving up in life, when our dreams are shattered and not realised**.All these affect our way of life and we **must free ourselves from them** we need to be friends of Jesus like Martha and Mary that he may always visit our **disturbed hearts** and **free** us from what is **binding and holding us**.As we enter this last Sunday of lent and prepare for the Holy Week,we need to **HEAR,LISTEN AND ACT** on His encouraging voice **LAZARUS COME OUT!**