



“If a man loves me, he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him
and make our home with him.” (Jn 14: 23)

February 2014: Reflection: John 14: 18-23

St. Jude the Apostle asks Jesus a very practical and interesting question. How will Jesus manifest Himself to believers and yet remain hidden from the world? To answer this question, Jesus points them to His word.

Ever since Jesus made his first public proclamation, those listeners who were genuinely seeking God recognized unparalleled wisdom and authority in His words, for He was sent from the Father and is Himself the very revelation of God. After Pentecost, the early Church likewise gathered regularly around the Apostles who were with Christ from the beginning. From them they heard the word of Christ: all that Christ revealed to them by His life, teaching, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Down to this very day, the Church continues to gather in this way around His word. Bl. John Paul II wrote, “The Church does not cease to listen to his words. She re-reads them continually. With the greatest devotion she reconstructs every detail of his life.”

As Jesus Youth, we practice our devotion to His word by a daily reading of the Bible. By a prayerful reading of the Bible, we join the whole Church sitting at the feet of Christ and hearing Him speak to us. However, it is not enough to hear His word, since Jesus says that those who love Him will keep (from Greek word *tereo*) His word. Indeed, we must give our total and unconditional assent to what He reveals. And what He reveals is not merely a set of ideas, but it is a communication of His very Self to us. That is why the proper response to this Revelation is to also give our whole self to Him. In this way, by keeping His word we find ourselves taken up into a beautiful relationship with the Triune God wherein God becomes truly manifest to us - this is the very assurance Jesus gives in response to St. Jude’s question. Let us therefore renew in our hearts our daily commitment to reading and keeping the word of God.