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Take Courage! Why are you Afraid?



As we progress through Holy Week with self-isolation and the various messages or news items concerning the course of the corona virus, I remembered the ‘Gospel of the Testament’. It’s the first of the twelve Gospels read on the evening of Great Thursday. It’s also the longest because it contains the words the Lord said to His disciples on the last night of his life on earth, taken from all four of the Evangelists.

He prepares them for the difficulties they will encounter and for His betrayal and death. He also explains that He is the way that leads to the Father, the true vine Who keeps alive those who remain attached to Him. But mostly He prepares them for the hatred of the world, which He calls upon them to meet with love, with the support and help of the Holy Spirit Whom He promises to send.

Essentially, the Gospel on Great Thursday represents the Testament, that is the agreement which Christ, as Head of the Church, makes with Christians throughout the ages as members of His Church. This is why we call it the ‘Gospel of the Testament’.
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