

Commentary on the Gospel for Tue, May 3rd 2011

Jesus continues to instruct Nicodemus and when he takes things too literally and can't see beyond the obvious, Jesus asks him how he thinks is going to understand the deeper things if he can't take the leap of faith and believe in the power of God?

But Jesus takes him further and, referring to the Old Testament account in Numbers 1; 4-9, of the bronze serpent being lifted up in the desert, he uses it as a kind of parable. When Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert those who had been worshipping false gods remembered the one true God, believed in him and were healed. Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up 'so that those who believe may have eternal life.'

We know that out of love for us all Jesus was lifted up on the cross at his crucifixion, but he was also lifted up into his glory at the time of his ascension into heaven. Nicodemus has plenty to think about and has to let 'the Spirit blow where it will' in his life as do we.

Sr. Anne McCarthy, rscj