

## **Sunday Readings Reflections of 4/24/2016**

### **Reading 1 Acts 14:21-27**

This account of Paul's and Barnabas' first missionary journey reminds us that those who first planted the Church on foreign soil did not have an easy time of it. They had to travel great distances by sea and by land. After they had founded Christian communities in several cities along the way, they had to return to those same cities to build up the believers' morale. Why? Because there was harsh opposition to this upstart new religion.

### **Reading 2 Revelations 21:1-5a**

If today's reading from Revelation sounds like a dream, that may be because it symbolically represents a dream most human beings share. That dream looks forward to a final union with God and the end of every suffering people have ever endured--no more starving children; no young people ruined by drugs or alcohol; no divided families or abusive parents; no broken hearts or cries in the night.

### **Gospel John 13:31-33a, 34-35**

Jesus is saying farewell to his friends at the Last Supper. He tells them that he will soon be "glorified." They still do not really get the message about his death and resurrection. They love him too much to face the reality of his crucifixion. So Jesus gathers them close and says, "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer." He tells them how they are to keep his presence alive within them after he is physically absent. "Love one another," he says.