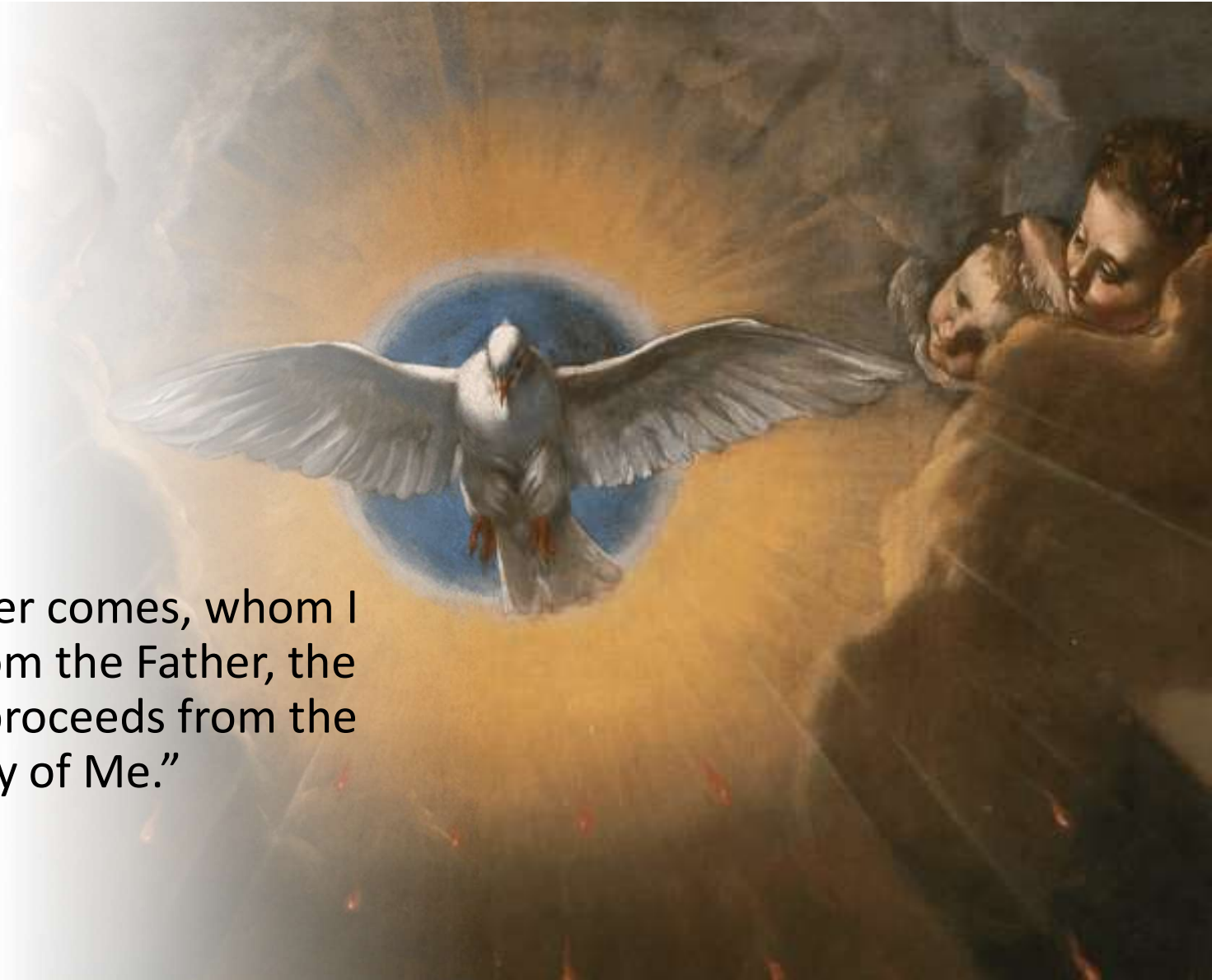


“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

– John 15:26



# Self-Deception

Feast of Pentecost 2023



# Why do we deceive ourselves?

## 1. Moral Dissonance

- Dissonance = inconsistency between the beliefs one holds or between one's actions and one's beliefs
- EX: Judas
- “This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.” (Jn. 12:6)



# Why do we deceive ourselves?

## 2. Self-Preservation

- Sometimes we justify our tolerance of a lie
- Maintaining the status quo is easier

## 3. Self-Presentation

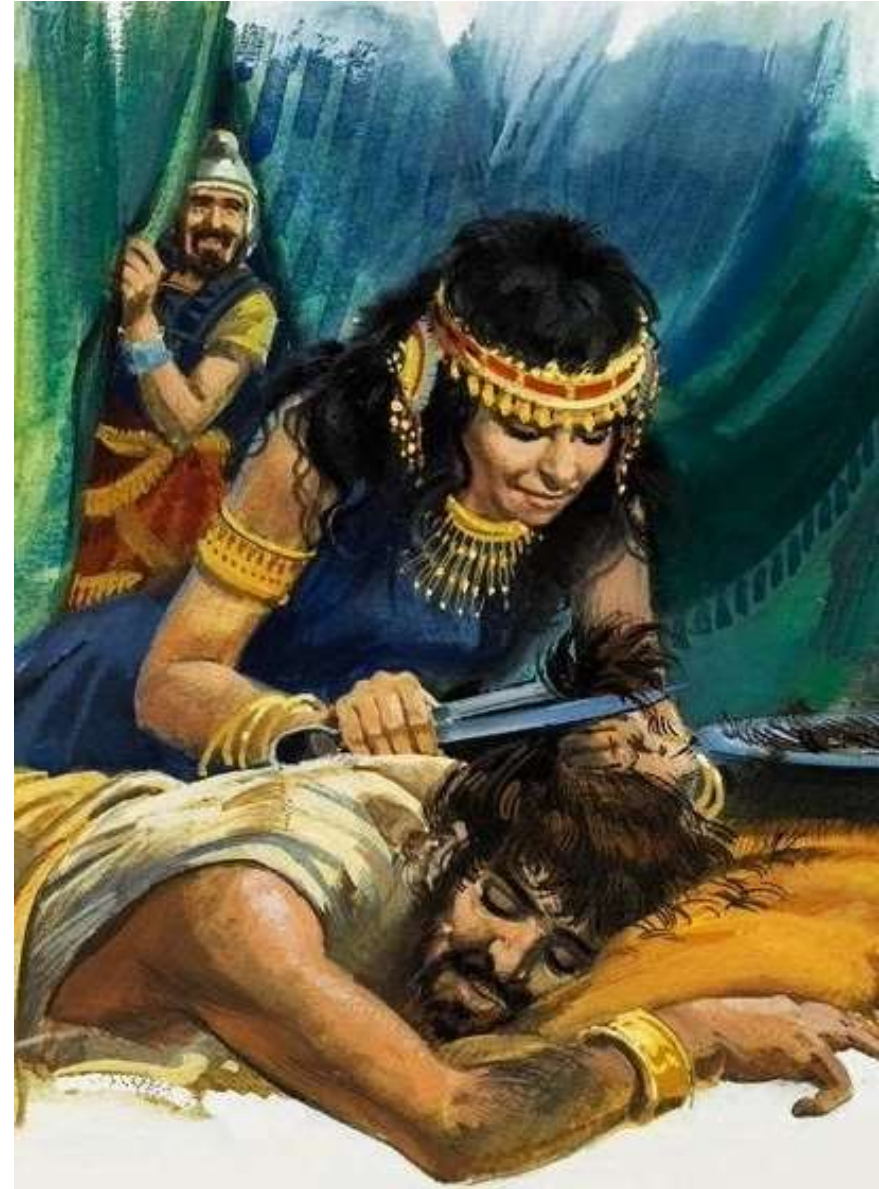
- To make myself look better than I really am
- EX: Ananias and Sapphira



# Why do we deceive ourselves?

## 4. Avoid Change

- EX: Samson
- “...when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart...”  
(Judg. 16:16-17)



# Its Beginnings

---

## 1. Ignorance

- “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hos. 4:6)
- “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (Jn.. 14:26)

## 2. The Passions

FACE IT!

~~FAKE IT~~

How to be honest with yourself?

1. Ask God
  - “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” (Ps. 139:23-24)
2. Listen to those who love you
3. Listen to yourself

## How to be honest with yourself?

---

4. Be aware of your emotions
5. Acknowledge your strengths and weaknesses
6. Admit your mistake
7. Be simple and direct, with love and wisdom

