

Twenty – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

Habakkuk 1.2-3, 2.2-4, 2 Timothy 1.6-8, 13-14 Luke 17.5-10

Today our readings begin with a reading from the minor Prophet Habakkuk. We hear, “How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!” I think at some point in all of our lives we can all relate to this feeling of abandonment or the feeling of isolation/totally alone. Perhaps questioning where is God. Listen to the end of the reading, “the just one, because of his faith, shall live.” God is directing the Prophet and us to **trust** in His plan with **faith**.

I would like us to take a moment and think about those two words, trust and faith. Trust as it applies to God is a form of hope, but with the special nuance that God will not deny His grace to one who does what one can. In the beginning God had a plan an order to which He created all things. Even after Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree God had a plan. God repeatedly asks mankind to trust in His plan. We know the stories of the Bible for example the crossing of the Red Sea, David verses Goliath, God calls us to have hope.

Hope being a Theological virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven. The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man” (CCC 1817-1818). Hope allows us to see the light in darkness.

St Paul tells Timothy to “stir into flame the gift of God.” Faith is not a one-time event. Faith requires continual tending and building up. Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear (Hebrews 11.1-3). Faith involves trust and confidence in God’s word even if it can’t be verified by our own human senses and reasoning. The virtue of hope springs from this combination of faith and confidence.

A mustard seed is 1/32 to 3/32 inches in diameter. So why does Jesus say you only need faith the size of a mustard seed? Jesus is pointing to the fact that even a small amount of faith can lead to significant and miraculous outcomes. The mustard seed begins so small yet grows into a strong large tree. Our faith begins small and can grow into a blossoming faith. Faith, like the mustard seed is a living

thing. Faith that is effective is a faith that is living which we see through our works.

Faith is a free gift from God. Like the mustard seed our faith needs nourishment. We can nourish our faith through the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacraments. We demonstrate our faith when we put into action the Word of God, by the way we live our lives. Our faith will grow by the practicing and using the Sacraments of the Church. Our faith grows when our prayers and actions are driven by charity, and our faith is alive when inspired by love of God and neighbor. God grants us the graces to allow our faith to blossom.

The CCC 166 states that “Faith is a personal act- the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers.” Even though faith is a personal gift we are called and must share our faith. We do this by our actions and our prayers.

We are called to trust in God’s divine plan. God’s plan is the perfect plan as we read throughout Sacred Scripture. We are also called to nourish our faith. Through prayer and use of the sacraments we can allow our faith to grow. As we receive the Eucharist ask Jesus to abide/remain in you. We must use the sacrament of reconciliation often. I would encourage going once a month.

As we grow in trust, hope, faith and love of God we demonstrate by our actions. We show our faith by demonstrating our love for God and neighbor. Our actions demonstrate the growth of our faith. In the Surrender Novena by Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo it states; “...pray as I taught you in the Our Father; Hallowed be thy Name, that is, be glorified in my need. Thy kingdom come, that is, let all that is in us and in the world be in accord with Your kingdom.” Let us trust God and let us strengthen our Faith with Hope and confidence. Shortly we will proclaim our Faith by reciting the Creed.

My friends I pray we trust in God more today than yesterday. I pray our faith grows both interiorly and by our actions demonstrating our love of God and neighbor.