

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A - 2020
1 Kings 19.9,11-13///Romans 9.1-5///Matt.14.22-33

→over the past few weeks we have been reminded of just how God speaks to us as we maneuver through life...

three weeks ago...we learned that the Kingdom of God can be compared to seed that is scattered all about the ground...

two weeks ago...we were reminded that presence in our lives is like a treasured buried in a field or fine pearl.

Last week...we were made aware of Jesus cares for us as he feeds the hungry...

And..... today the depth and strength of our faith is at issue....

→however, our experience of God is not always one whose foundation is in a word, or a voice, or an action or an experience.

→life teaches us that sometimes, God is silent...and when those moments of terrifying quiet descend on our troubled souls...it is then that we are usually at a loss of what are we to do?

PAUSE

→the quest to understand who Jesus is, who God is in our lives.....is something that all of us have tried to grasp.....

→this quest begins when were are mere children and continues throughout our entire lives....

→we try to get a hold of who God is...especially for us

→and today's readings from Scripture are exactly about that....they are about understanding....or at least trying to understand.....who God is, who Jesus is

→in the first reading...Elijah tries to grasp who God is.....for him and his people

→as we heard...God wasn't in the wind, or crushing rocks, nor in an earthquake or raging fire...but instead God was found in the "tiny whispering sound"

→in the second reading Paul, is trying to make his readers also realize who Jesus is...

→and finally in today's Gospel, only after Jesus calms the waters do the apostles begin to recognize that he is truly the Son of God...

and so, THAT REMAINS the question for you and me.....who is God, who is Jesus, [and] how can we begin to understand....

<PAUSE>

→....Peter [and the others present] began to realize who Jesus was when he answered the call of Jesus to come to him on the water

→Elijah begins to understand who God was when he stood on the mountain in the face of heavy winds, and earthquakes and fire

→Paul begins to understand who God was when he began to speak the truth in Christ and bear witness to the teachings of Jesus

→so [in a sense]....to understand the presence of God in our lives....to begin to know who Jesus is for us.....

→we have to stand on the mountain and face the storms of life....as Elijah does

→we have to get out of the boat and begin to walk on the water of life....as Peter does

→we have to bear witness to gospel teachings and speak the truth no matter what the circumstances we face...as Paul does

PAUSE

→all of today's readings ...but the gospel passage in particular, challenges you and me to get out of our boat.....move beyond our comfort zone, our comfortable life and existence and begin to truly follow and live the demands of our faith

→today we find Peter making a leap of faith....though his trust may have been as unstable as the boat he was in...he trusted in Jesus nonetheless

-→[you know] Peter could have very easily taken a different approach in this whole scenario....he could have said, "Lord, if that is **you**..... prove it by walking on the sea over to me!"

→i.o.w.....Peter could have chosen to test Jesus rather than trust him...but what happens...PETER...as scary as it might have been...makes a leap of faith and gets out of the boat

→and so perhaps.....the question we need to ask ourselves is...are we willing to get out of our boat like Peter and make a leap of faith.....are we willing to stand up for what we believe...to do what is right....no matter what the cost or the circumstances....

→are we willing to trust in Jesus and his presence in our lives

→and IF WE DO "get out of the boat" will we be strong enough in our faith to stay the course or we will be just like Peter and let fears and doubt begin to creep in that causes us to sink

→we are being called to make a leap of faith in almost every aspect of our lives these days....beyond our relationships...our careers...our vocations....today we are being asked to make a leap of faith in some of the most common aspects of life.

→we are constantly being challenged with the decisions we face, the dilemmas we have....the struggles we encounter...to be witnesses of Christ throughout our world

---by respecting all of human life...

---by remaining faithful to the teachings of Christ

---by acting fairly and justly towards one another

---these are just some of the ways we are being called to get out of our boats and trust in the Lord...to make a leap of faith....to understand and live the gospel message

→today we are presented with yet again.....a very popular story with a message that applies to each and every one of us

Jesus is urging us to look at our faith...to look at the strength, the depth, the meaning of our faith...so that we might begin to fully understand and trust in him and who he is for us

<PAUSE>

→to understand Jesus, to understand his presence in our lives we need to answer his call....

....the call today is quite simple....and straightforward

→Peter tried and so must we

.....it's time.....for us to get out of our boat and begin trusting more fully in the Lord