

19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday  
August 11, 2019  
“Inexplainable Faith and Trust”

Wis 18:6-9

Heb 11:1...19

Lk 12:32-48

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

A common trait, that at least all Americans have, is procuring the necessities of life for self, spouse, and family. These are the basic things we must have to survive and grow as human persons.

However, what is interesting is that most of us continue to want more and more, once we enjoy and have the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. We think we “need” a better house, a better car, better clothes, better sports equipment, better accessories, better technology, and so on! Then, once we acquire these, we discover that we must have even more – the very best that money and our resources can afford.

Thus, what was once a hope for the very necessities of life, becomes pride of ownership, possession of beautiful things, stature and prestige in the eyes of others, – and, most of all, control of our life and everything around us! The root of this spiraling problem is that we are inherently fearful of the future and what the future might bring – And the mistake we make is in thinking we can control life – and have absolute power over our future!

Unfortunately, all our efforts eventually come to naught – Because, at some moment, we must die and lose every thing and every security we thought we could provide for ourselves. God made us for Himself – and nothing less than God will ever fill us, fulfill us, or satisfy us here! Furthermore, we run the risk of losing God, if we focus only on our life here.

All the readings for today teach us how to rise above our fears and our desire to control life – They teach us, instead, to trust in God and in Jesus whom He sent.

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, was a passage from this book written only 100 years or so before the coming of Jesus. The Hebrews displaced in Alexandria, Egypt, were from families who had been there for several centuries beforehand. They were

struggling to remain faithful to God and to their holy traditions that stretched back for almost 2200 years.

Thus, they were reminded of that First Passover wherein God spared them because they had prayed – the very night that God struck dead every firstborn of the human and animal worlds in the land of Egypt.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that we must have faith – For it was faith that led Abraham to leave his homeland and go somewhere he had never been before. Faith led Abraham to trust in God’s promise of a son for whom he had to wait far beyond the time during which he and Sarah could possibly conceive a child. Faith led Abraham to give back that same son, Isaac, when God demanded the boy in sacrifice. And the gift back of that son to Abraham at the moment of sacrifice prefigured the Resurrection of Jesus who came back from the dead!

However, faith is not blind belief. It is really something that defies description. It means trust in God – a relationship with God – neither of which can be satisfactorily explained or defined. “It is the realization of what is hoped for, the evidence of what we cannot see!” “It is the recognition of what is truly real in the unseen world.” And as Arch-Bishop John R. Quinn once said: “If you ask me if I know, the answer is ‘yes’ – But if you ask me how I know, I cannot explain it!”

Jesus continues on with this theme of trust and faith in St. Luke’s Gospel. However, Jesus radicalizes the message. “Don’t be afraid – sell what you have and give to the poor. Store up, instead, a treasure in heaven! For where your heart is, is where your real treasure lies! Don’t kid yourselves – you never know when God will come for your life. Don’t ever be complacent – if you have been given a lot, a lot will be expected of you. If you have been given even more, then even more will be expected of you!”

Brothers and Sisters, Jesus is telling us that we are responsible for everything that has been given to us. We must take good care of our spouse, our children, our loved ones. We must use well all of our material blessings because they come from God. This is far different from having the best, the finest, the most beautiful, the most secure future – and the control we think we must have over everything we possess as well as of our own lives!

So let us pray that we can grow in true faith and trust – Let us pray for the freedom and peace that trusting in God can bring – And may we always listen to God and respond with all our hearts to whatever He asks in every situation!

Amen.

August 11, 2019

Monsignor Russell G. Terra