

12th Ordinary Sunday
June 20, 2021
“Unanswerable Questions”

Job 38:1...11
2 Cor 5:14-17
Mk 4:35-41

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Most adults have experienced unsettling things that cause them to wonder and to question. We have all been faced with serious problems and bad situations. We could see no way to emerge unscathed physically, emotionally, or spiritually. And then, someone – or something – unexpected, intervenes. We are delivered from harm – or the problem is resolved. We wonder “why?” – and “how?” – safety came. But there are no adequate answers.

Then there are those other times. No one intervenes. We are forced to live in and through a terrible situation. There is no escape – no favorable outcome – And there is no fault of our own! So, again, we wonder and we question. And, again, our questions go unanswered.

Today, the Book of Job teaches us that there are no answers for some things. Job was a good man. He lived a praiseworthy life. Then everything was stripped away. All he had left was his life.

Satan was the source for all the evil that afflicted Job. However, when Job demanded an explanation from God – he was rebuked! How could Job possibly understand the ways of God – when he couldn’t even understand the marvelous things of the natural world?

Nevertheless, when Job admitted his basic poverty of soul and spirit – God restored him to health and to more than he had ever lost! For God’s thoughts, plans, and ways are always far beyond our limited human understanding.

God sent His Son into the world to bring us redemption and salvation. Jesus came to reveal a God of Love. He came to help us understand a little of the unfathomable, but wonderful, ways of God. Jesus showed us a way to live through the struggles and hardships of life with our soul unscathed.

The Gospel selection from St. Matthew shows the disciples in a chaotic and hopeless situation. The storm came out of nowhere. Waves were breaking over the bow and filling the boat. They were going down and Jesus was asleep! They were terrified and in a state of utter panic. They awakened Jesus and questioned about his unconcern.

So Jesus rebuked the storm as a sign of God's power – and it ceased. Then he chided them for their terror and their lack of faith. They had not yet put their faith in Jesus and their total trust in God. They would rather have their questions answered – and they would rather be delivered from all the pain and hardships of life. Moreover, when their unexpected deliverance came instantaneously, all they could do was wonder and ask questions – just as we do so often ourselves.

St. Paul tells us that we must begin to look differently at our lives – and at the world itself – if we accept and believe in Jesus as the Risen Christ. We have been united with Jesus with our baptism. We have been transformed. We must now see all people and all material things in a transformed way. We are a new creation. We are not who or what we were before. And the most wonderful thing about being a new creation in Christ is that we become empowered to live life differently.

Because we live in a fallen world, things will continue to go wrong – and satan's evil will still exist. Nevertheless, we must never let panic overcome us. Although there is every reason to fear things at times – we don't have to be terrified. For even in the worst of times – and in the worst of situations – God is still with us. God never abandons us, no matter how we have sinned or what we have become. We need only to turn to Jesus – and, somehow, we will find a way through the storm. For although the storm continues to rage, we will have peace in the depths of our heart and soul.

Brothers and Sisters, there are no answers for the mysteries of God – and the mysteries of life – during our time here. God has a plan that only slowly unfolds. He may allow satan to work – but God is always supreme. And, someday, satan will be vanquished – and evil will be destroyed.

Until then, we must be grateful when God intervenes, in an unexpected way, in our lives. We must be faith-filled and trustful when the pain and the hardship persist. For we are loved intensely by a God who is infinitely beyond us – Yet, He is a Father who is as close to us as our own heart and soul.

So, let us pray that we may always praise and love the Lord God – and Jesus the Christ whom He sent!

Amen.

June 20, 2021

Msgr. Russell G. Terra