

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



*5th Sunday Ordinary Times
Monday, February 05, 2018*

*Year 2/Cycle B
Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1Cor. 9:16-19 Mk. 1: 29-39*

Worries or Hope?

This 5th week of Ordinary Times reminds us very clearly that there will be short spurts of joy in our lives and for most of us, we will have to muster the daily energy to carry-out our routine tasks. We are moved most times by doubts, fears, concerns, and anxieties.

Remember that my life is like the wind;

my eye will not see happiness again. (Job. 7:7)

Our modern world it would appear, that for far too many of us, it means working around these burdens in our lives. The First Reading is taken from the Old Testament Book of Job; we have to recognize that here was an example of God permitting everything to go wrong in the life of a human being. Yet, as we read on in Job, he questioned, yet, never did he turn away or gave up hope.

In our modern plight, there is a sleep crisis among so many people, there is a term for sleeplessness, there are studies on this and countless areas of focus on lack of sleep. What Job alluded to is now part of the reality today.

“When I lie down I say, “When shall I arise?”

then the night drags on...” (Job. 7:4)

We feel in those hours the sense of hopelessness and trials of our life. Yet, when we read the New Testament in the Gospel of Mark, we observe the beginnings of the public ministry of Jesus. With the coming of Jesus, there is a new age – a sense of hope, healings, restoration of life, there is a reset to the possibilities that life can hold. Jesus began reaching out to others, He began at home... with the lady who would serve them. She was down with a fever, knowing that without her at the helm meals would not be ready. Jesus knew the role she played in the life of her household.

“He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

Then the fever left her and she waited on them.” (Mk. 1:31)

The new healing and hope came with a cost- service to others. So important to remember in this healing, Peter’s mother-in-law did not continue to relax and rest, she got up, rolled up her sleeves and began to serve.

The healing and service of Jesus in the New Testament was not to bring the lethargic spirit of Job but to continue to serve in hope and love. Yes, the Old Testament depression is replaced by hope and service of the new times.

“After sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.” (Mk. 1:32)

How often do we ask God to heal us and help us? What do we do with this healing and health? Do we put it to the service of others? Do we just mope around and carry on with our business, with little regard to serve others?

“He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons.....” (Mk. 1:34)

Jesus came to bring hope to those who were ill, left out of society, hopeless and friendless, He brought hope...St. Paul reminds us that

“For an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it.” (1Cor.9:18)

We have the power to seek healing and wholeness, but we are obliged to put our health for the service of others. Yes, we are not asking God to heal us for our sake, but to heal us that we can bring the hope of the Gospel of Good News to others. So when we ask God for healing and health; what do we plan to do with it, is our main question.

“Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible.” (1Cor. 9:19)

Let us pray for our government leaders, give them the courage to lead, with a sense of justice for all not only some, knowing that they too will be judged.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday’s readings written by

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