

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith In Laity Corner*



25<sup>th</sup> d Sunday Ordinary Times

## *God's Fairness*

Reading: Is. 55:6-9; Phil.1:20-24, 27; Mt. 20:1-16

The best statement to demonstrate the frailty of our humanity is the fact that we, try as we may, never understand the mind of God. Yes, we do attempt, racking our brains, upset with life and our circumstances. Then questions are posed..... Why an earthquake? Why did my relative die? Why did I lose my job? Why is my child on drugs? Why did that hurricane destroy all that I had? There may be a variety of answers contrived. Yet, they may well all be wrong. One fact remains consistent. We have to admit ....

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways—oracle of the LORD.” (Is. 55:8)*

If we can always remember these words... there will be less annoyance and a better sense of surrendering to the Will of God. The question forwarded, ‘*why do bad things happen to good people*’? This is a fair question for a person living this life on earth. There is no reason, more than to say it is God’s Will. Isaiah’s readings make it very clear that our brain does not have the capacity to tap into the mind of God.

*“So are my ways higher than your ways,  
my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” (Is. 55:9)*

There is nothing in our imagination that can conjure the thoughts of Our God. It is only He could say a word, proclaim, pronounce and it becomes.

*“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;  
It shall not return to me empty.” (Is.55:11)*

St. Paul ties it eloquently....

*“Our live on earth whether short or long should be for Christ.” (Phil. 1:21)*

If He wants to bless us with life to continue His work, then we are to welcome this; if, however, we are to die; that then is to our advantage as we will have the opportunity to live with Him forever. St. Paul knew that as long as he was doing the Will of God, what happens will be up to God.

*“I long to depart this life and be with Christ, [for] that is far better.” (Phil.1:23)*

How do we explain the pain and suffering which each of us, undergo a points in our life? How do we accept or reject the suffering will decide how these will affect our hope for everlasting life? How much do we want eternal life? Having this question posed to each of us. We will all say, “Yes!” Yet, when asked how much are you willing to sacrifice for this, our voices become almost mute.

The Gospel reminds us that we cannot understand God’s version of fairness; yet who are we to judge? The example of a landowner who distributed his wealth, not always according to the length of hours, but rather on his reasoning for the need. Many of us may not consider, the conditions that were faced by people who are waiting and trying to find employment, over those who got early employment.

*“Why do you stand here idle all day?  
They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’” (Mt. 20:7)*

It may be considered by human standards unfair, unjust or poor hiring practice. Somehow, it also displayed the supposed need for all to be on a pay scale equated to the work completed. The owner of the vineyard thought differently. His reasoning and judgement was not to the expectation of the masses.

*“They grumbled against the landowner.” (Mt. 20:11)*

The early workers, received their pay; but were preoccupied on the wages of those who were hired at the end of the day.

*“Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?” (Mt. 20:15)*

Can we question the judgement of God? It may be more important that we focus on our goal, over worrying about the treatment bestowed to others. Our focus has to be on our own prize as St. Paul reminds us. God’s generosity towards others is not for us to comment or to compare. On this path of Catholic living, we need to not question the compassionate mercy of God, just stay in our lane... and seek the fairness of God, over the knowledge of our own understanding.

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