

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, February 04, 2019

Reading Jer. 1: 4-5. 17-19; Lk.4:21-30

4th Sunday of Ordinary Times

Standing Firm

Four Ordinal Sundays into 2019, is very special as the world welcomes the American Super Bowl LIII results, continue to help others climb out of the huddle of frozenness, observing the damage done and recognizing that our homeless population has suffered the most. The readings today remind us these times demand that we stand firm for something and to learn how to stand in the truth of God's Word.

It is only possible to stand on firm ground when you are sure who and whose you are. There are some important facts that one has to consider when '*standing firm*'. God knows your existence before the earth began... just think of that, God created the world and knew you were to exist, what era, and how long you will live. These facts are pre-ordained.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

before you were born I dedicated you," (Jer. Ch. 1:5)

Standing Firm/4 OT

#325 /BCW/2019

God is always aware of your capabilities and what He wants you to do. We have to align our wills to the Will of God. From the time of our Baptism, we were anointed as ‘priest, prophet and king’. So each baptized member has the prophetic anointing,

“Prophet to the nations I appointed you.” (Jer. Ch. 1:5)

The prophetic gift God gave us for use to advice, give encouragement and to stand for the truth. Our first reaction will be to claim that we are too young, too afraid, unsure of what to say, how to use our prophetic gift?

“I do not know how to speak. I am too young! (Jer. Ch. 1:6)

God assured us that we need not fear. Given the anointing, you have the voice to use, just allow God to use you.

‘Do not say, “I am too young.”

To whomever I send you, you shall go.’ (Jer. 1:7)

Lack of experience is not an excuse for God, we are to go forth, standing firm in the Word of God, we are called to bring comfort to others.

“Whatever I command you, you shall speak.” (Jer. 1:7)

God will give us the words that are needed to comfort, to heal; we just have to be willing to stand firm, allowing the Spirit of God to envelop us and His voice will speak. Fear is not to be our concern, focus on our willingness to follow the call God has made to all of us...

*“Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you.” (Jer. 1:8)*

Prophets called by God are all afraid of the daunting task, Moses, Elijah, Jerimiah. Remember their fears. God told them to go forth, stand firm and He will be their strength.

*"Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth,
See, I place my words in your mouth." (Jer. 1:9)*

The Gospel poises the challenges of speaking to your own relations or hometown people. Most times it is difficult to accept that this is the same person that was once your playmate and you knew a long time ago.

"No prophet is accepted in his own native place." (Lk. 4:24)

Could this be the same person who is now so famous? Do we accept or reject him/her?

'They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"' (Lk.4:22)

Jesus was asked to return to His home and to preach in their synagogue(*church*) and unfold the Scriptures. It is difficult for the home crowd to accept the fame and notoriety of the person they knew so well. Jesus stood firm, despite the feelings of others He stood with God. We are all called to be witnesses through our Baptism and our Confirmation to go out to share the Word of God to all who will listen, we should not be afraid, we must *stand firm* in God's Word, in His anointing, and know that He will place the correct words in our mouth as we proclaim in His Name.

Stand Firm!!

Let us pray for those who have embodied the anointing of God, will stand firm in His Word to share with those who hunger for God and don't know how to find Him.

Written by Brenda Chee Wah, a *lay parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Lithonia, Georgia*. Available now on webpage/Facebook

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

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