

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, August 11, 2019

19th Sunday of Ordinary Times

Readings: Wis.18:6-9; Heb.1-2, 8-19/

Faith Test

There are times in our lives, in the history of a country, in the plight of our world that our faith has to be tested and we realize that even the faithful at times are questioning our beliefs. So many enquiries beg for a response- the Civil Rights movement of the 60's, the immigration laws in the 70's which permitted people willing to work a chance to find this dream. Sixty years later we appear to have lost so much of the respect and advancements once made. Every week brings new atrocious realities. Dr. King stated that the 'silence' of our friends, becomes the most painful of it all. *Silence* in our Senate, our churches, our faith leaders, people whose voices we wanted to hear- there is only deadly silence.

With the 19th Sunday of Pentecost, it brings so many emotions and painful realities to the feet of Scriptures. Right now, God has to be putting our faith to the test. Our faith has taught us that God, the righteous Judge sees all and knows all and there will be some vindication in His time.

"The expectation of your people

was the salvation of the righteous and the destruction of their foes." (Ws. 18:7)

At times, it would appear, to our minds that our Creator, has fallen asleep; as the righteous continue to endure no end of suffering, without justice or even rightful recourse. We align ourselves to the fact that He is a God of justice, and mercy is His to give upon those who suffer.

*“He loves justice and right.
The earth is full of the mercy of the LORD.” (Ps. 33:5)*

We realize that it is God who has all power in His hand, and look on us to believe, even when we don't quite understand what is happening around us.

*“Faith is the realization of what is hoped
for and evidence* of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1)*

Yes, faith is having our eyes on God, like Abraham did, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and so many others; without understanding the 'why'. Having our eyes on God when life appears impossible and there appears no way around circumstances. We can only find God, through eyes of faith.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him.” (Heb.11:6)

We can please Him, by seeking Him... Jesus said, that seeking Him maybe what we need for miracles to happen. Miracles only occur with a firm foundation of 'faith'. We do need a miracle in this 'land of the free and home of the brave.' We painfully pray for a miracle in faith as we watch people whose family were wounded and killed within 24 hours, for children who are unsure of their future, without their parents, those who are poor, of the ongoing abuse of people of color, whether by fear of brutal, police tactics, racist individuals and those without conscious or appreciation of the wonderful creation of God, each of us are. My heart is heavy, and for me it is only with God's intervention and the need for prayer with fasting, will our faith begin to grow. As Jesus explained to His Apostles that some forms of evil cannot be touched by ordinary means.

*“Why could we not drive it out?”
He said to them, “This kind can only come
out through prayer and fasting.” (Mk. 9:28-9)*

Some evils cannot be removed without prayer and strict fasting to build or faith in the realities of what is yet to be seen.....

My question: people who are given an opportunity to find a menial paying job are punished -NO punishment for the rich companies that hired them???
Are we ok with this?

***Faith in Laity Corner** is a weekly Sunday reading reflection written by Brenda Chee Wah
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Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

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

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