

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary
Time/Beginning of Respect Life Month/Year C -
(Mass Count Weekend)
(Rummage Sale Weekend)
Our Lady of Victory Parish Community

1st Reading:

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

- "Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live." . . .
. *Rashness is the opposite of patience; faith results in the promise of life!*

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 95 - *Sung*

2nd Reading:

2 Timothy 1:6-8; 13-14

- "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, but bear your share of the hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us."

GOSPEL:

LUKE 17:5-10

- " 'Increase our faith,' " "Is he grateful to the servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.' "

i. Recall the last time your button was pushed and you became quite angry with your spouse, or children . . . or someone close to you? Perhaps the litany that flowed forth from your lips went something like this: “I cook and clean and take care of the house, and what do I get in return? . . . not even a “thank you!” . . . or, perhaps the litany was something like this?: “I work 10-12 hours a day, come home exhausted, pay the bills, and what do I get in return? . . . not even a “thank you!” Familiar litanies?

Or, perhaps there were those times when, for us adults, in our younger days, we heard the request “Johnny, will you please take out the garbage?”, to which Johnny replies, “Yeh! What’s it worth? I need money!”

I don’t think there are any of us who were not raised with the disciplines of “Thank you!” and “Please!”, and “May I”, as part of not only our vocabulary, but our way of life. But, the Gospel is not about politeness. It is not, first and foremost, a book of etiquette . . . and in the passage we have heard from Luke this day . . . the Lord makes that very clear. If I understand what has been said correctly . . . there is something to be said about owning up to our responsibility . . . our **duty** of discipleship . . . something that, perhaps, can certainly be unsettling and uncomfortable.

ii. The Gospel starts out innocently enough with a very

simple and genuine request made by the apostles of the Lord . . . “Increase our faith,” , to which the Lord first points out to them, that it’s not the “size” of faith that is important . . . but how it is used . . . how it is put into practice.

For Luke, and the early community of believers, it is clear that with the **gift** of faith comes responsibility . . . responsibility to be a **faithful servant**. Such faithful service becoming the clearest expression of the relationship that exists between the follower and the one they follow . . . the clearest expression of the relationship that exists between the one who has been the giver of this gift of faith and the one who has received this gift of faith.

The bottom line is that there isn’t anything the true disciple does that is **not** the disciple’s duty to do.

III. Such a view may seem harsh on first hearing it, especially in the times we find ourselves in.

If these words do seem harsh, perhaps it is not so much that our faith is small or medium size or large . . . but rather, there is a disconnect between what we have been offered as pure gift . . . a relationship with Jesus Christ that is life giving and life-empowering . . . Jesus Christ . . . who, not by our own doing but by His absolute love for what the Father had given Him, has offered us salvation . . . Yes, perhaps there is

a disconnect between this, and how we are obliged to use it . . . live it. . . perhaps, we are stuck in the expectation that God . . . and others . . . need to reward us . . . for our acts . . . and when we don't experience that "reward" . . . that immediate response . . . we start to drift away . . .

In one sense, this was not unlike what Habakkuk was experiencing and feeling. The prophet begins his lament, certain that God is absent . . . out to lunch . . . on vacation . . . with violence and injustice seeming to go unchecked all around him . . . no matter how faithful Habakkuk and others may have been . . . no matter how hard they worked . . . but Habakkuk is reminded to reflect back . . . and not be rash but continue to live a just life and be faithful . . . for God has **always** been faithful and in that faithfulness has **always** offered a vision of what life is intended to be, and God will continue to be faithful: "Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late. The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live.

The vision is still there . . . it will always be there . . . **God's** vision for us . . . and it is ours to embrace . . . ours to be faithful to . . . ours as disciples of the Lord to do all we are obliged to do to help share that vision with others . . .