



OFFICE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ORANGE

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Bible Faith Sharing October 1, 2025 27th Sunday In Ordinary Time (CC)



First Reading, Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

How long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen!
I cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not intervene.
Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery?
Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord. Then the LORD answered me and said:
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.



Reflection:

I admit I experienced a time like the prophet Habakkuk when I was doing street gang outreach during O.C.'s bloodiest years. Within two years I helped bury 16 youth as a result of gang related shootings. One boy was only 2 years old. One night I was meeting with a group of youth when a drive-by happened. One of the boys was hit and went down. His gang scattered leaving him lying on the pavement as the shooters did a turn around. I ran to help the boy who was still alive and pulled him to safety as more shots rang out and bullets fluttered past my head. As I was nervously patching his bloody wound, I remember crying out to God "WHERE ARE YOU?! STOP THIS VIOLENCE!" All three of today's readings compare a life lived by faith to a life lived in doubt. Faith is not something we have just because we think or say we have it. And we really never know how strong it is until we're in a situation. Faith is a gift from God that only becomes real and active when we respond to God through our words, our actions, and how we live our life. Because we are human, we have doubts that if we allow it to, can strip away our faith and hurt our trust and relationship with the Lord. Today's first reading was written between 6th – 5th century B.C. shortly after the invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. The prophet Habakkuk is witnessing violent and bloody scenes of crime and social injustices. It does not seem fair that this is happening to God's people. Although Habakkuk cries out to God for help, God remains silent. His disappointment is causing him to doubt and is chipping away at his faith in the Lord. God knows the terrible things happening to his people are due to their turning away from him. God assures Habakkuk he has heard his cry for help and will intervene to rescue his people when he knows the time is right. In the meantime, no matter how bad things appear, Habakkuk would do well to continue living by faith in God, rather than in doubt, and so would we today.

Questions:

1. Any words in the reading get your attention? Any feelings? Thoughts? Images? Questions?
2. Are you struggling with any doubts right now? Could be anything. What are your doubts?
3. Share about a time you were discouraged, but in the end, everything turned out ok.
4. Do you find it easier to doubt or to have faith? Explain.

Responsorial Psalm 95:1-2,6-9

R. (8) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds,
the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading, 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14

Beloved: I remind you, to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. 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, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

Reflection

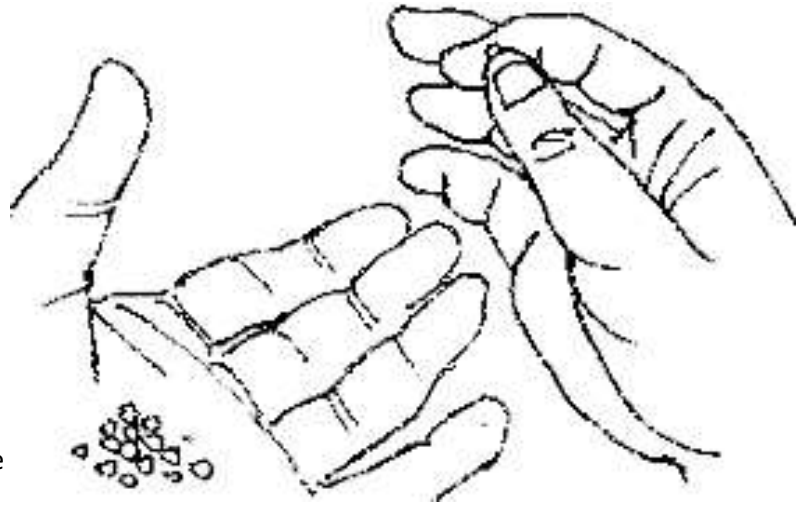
There is a story told of an eagle's egg that fell from the nest and landed in a farmer's chicken coop below. The egg cracked open, and a baby eagle emerged. He stayed in the pen and grew up thinking he was a chicken like the other birds around him. One day he noticed an eagle like himself soaring high overhead. He thought to himself "How great is this bird. I wish I could fly like that." Although he could do the same, the young eagle lived on doubting his ability to fly and remained grounded in the pen like the chickens. In today's second reading, Paul, writing from his prison cell, pushes Timothy to be an eagle rather than a chicken. Timothy has become discouraged in his faith and the ability God has given him to carry on his mission. Paul reminds Timothy he has received an extraordinary gift of faith driven by the power of the Holy Spirit. But in order to be effective, he has to put his faith to good use by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus boldly and without being ashamed or afraid what others might say, think, or do to him. Through our baptism, God has given us the ability to spread his gospel to the world, like eagles soaring high in the open sky without any boundaries. At the same time, we must be aware of letting discouragement and doubt keep us penned up like a chicken, grounded, and ineffective. Which do you choose to be for God, the eagle or the chicken?

Questions:

1. Any words in the reading get your attention? Any feelings? Thoughts? Images? Questions?
2. Have you ever felt like Timothy? What or who encourages you to stay strong in your faith?
3. Taken from the story in today's reflection, which are you? A chicken or an eagle? Explain.

Gospel of Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here immediately and take your place at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that 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.'"



Reflection:

There are several parts to this Gospel reading. The first is the disciples begin to believe they do not have enough faith to be a follower of Jesus and ask him to give them more faith. Jesus tells them that it's not about how much faith they (we) have as it is what they (we) do with it. A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds but produces the largest of bushes. Jesus tells his disciples and us, that even the smallest amount of faith is capable of doing the greatest things, if we're willing to put it to good use. If not, it becomes useless. In the second part of this reading, Jesus points out that there is no greatness if we're doing things for God because we feel "we have to." The servant in the story did what was expected of his assigned duties because he had to. But, serving our Lord must go beyond a call-to-duty, or in other words, going beyond just doing the minimum we are obligated to do according to our religious teaching. Living by faith gives us a strong desire to boldly respond to the love and grace God pours into our hearts and lives daily, without any limits to the greatness we can achieve through Christ Jesus. Lastly, today's Gospel story of the duty-bound servant tells us that the demands of faithfully serving our Lord requires we stay focused on doing the will of God and not what we get in return.

Questions:

1. Any words in the reading get your attention? Any feelings? Thoughts? Images? Questions?
2. Jesus uses the image of a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds to describe faith. What image would you use to describe your faith at this time in your life?
3. When a seed is planted, watered, and receives sunlight, it grows. How is our faith like a seed? The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. What is it you ask of Jesus right now?