

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Sunday, 6 October 2019

Luke 17:5-10

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Everything that looks completely impossible becomes possible, if it is approached with faith. The theme linking today's three readings is faith. In the first reading God, through the prophet Habakkuk, urges the people not to give up because of difficulties or situations that seem to shake their faith in God. At times we forget the gift of faith we have received and it is necessary to fan the flame to become aware of the privileges that we have received through the generosity of God. In the gospel Jesus is telling us that faith is a very powerful force, capable of making impossible things happen. We must always remember that we approach no task alone, but that with us there is God and all his power.

As we enter in the first Sunday of the month of October, especially a month especially dedicated as the extraordinary mission month, we are invited to examine the depth of our faith in our particular missionary situations to which we are called. Do we have the awareness that the providential power of the Lord is always with us in all our struggles and difficulties as we take up any of our duties and responsibilities. The statement of Jesus through the today's passage to the disciple gives us immense possibility to explore the opportunities that we get through faith. Faith is not something that gives us a right to reward. It is a gift that helps us to understand life and brings us happiness. In simple words faith is a gift to understand the will of God in our struggles of Life desperate situations of life. It's our awareness that our loving Lord and Father is with us in all our struggles and difficulties in spite of all our weaknesses and sinfulness. When we understand the mercy and compassion of God it will be very easy for us to believe in him and trust in him and his power. It gives us an awareness that nothing happens without the knowledge of God our Father. Then all our actions will be oriented towards him and we will be able to open our eyes to see the miracles happening around us, the providential care and protection from him.

Our pioneering fathers in Ghana use to share about the struggles and difficulties that they had to undergo at the initial stages as they started their mission in Ghana. Several times they had to face a situation to close down the mission in Ghana. The language barrier, culture, and extreme financial struggles brought them to a desperate situation. But once they started to see everything in the perspective of faith, having the trust in the Lord who called them, and becoming aware of the loving providence of God which would not let them perish; they were able to withstand all the struggles. They didn't say that all the struggles went away at once, but they could simply leave everything into the hands of God and could encounter all those situations courageously. Now we who work in Ghana mission experience the fruits of their courage and patient enduring based on the faith in the benevolent God.

When Jesus invites the disciples to possess the faith of at least as small as the mustard seed, he is giving them to trust also in the abundant possibility of commanding the mulberry tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea. It just means that if they

believe in the mercy and benevolence of the heavenly Father, they could overcome all their problems and struggles by courageously facing with the hope that the Merciful Father is with them.

It's an invitation for all of us to become aware of the benevolent and merciful hand of the heavenly Father in our struggles and desperate situations. And let not say to God, 'God I have a problem', instead let us say, 'problem I have a God'. With total trust in the heavenly father let us command all our struggles difficulties and suffering; "be uprooted and be drowned in the sea." Then slowly we will become aware of abundance of blessings and providence of God in our lives and these problems will start vanishing from our lives as we rarely notice them. Today during this Divine Liturgy let us pray that our lives may be totally focused to the loving mercy and providence of God to see the ways occasions of God interfering our lives. Amen

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