

Commentary on the Readings for October 2, 2022

The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The theme of the Readings for today is **Faith** and its companion **Trust**, something we think we know all about, right? Faith is a special blessing we receive when we are baptized, but it is not like any other gift that we might receive. Faith is more than a special talent such as playing a musical instrument or conversing fluently in two or more languages. However, like those gifts or talents, if we don't use them, we will lose them. Both faith and talents can die. They both require extensive work on our part to develop and "fine tune" before we can be proficient in them and fully trust in ourselves and in God.

In the **First Reading**, from the **Book of the Prophet Habakkuk (1:2-3, 2:2-4)**, we hear the prophet pleading with God to give relief to the people of Judah during the last days of the Jewish Monarchy near the end of the 6th century BC. Because of Habakkuk's sincerity, God answers his prayer, not with immediate relief, but with encouragement to wait and be patient as the end is not far off. Faith and patience go hand-in-hand.

In the **Responsorial Psalm (95:1-2, 6-9)**, the psalmist encourages his followers to be patient even in the face of crisis. His reasoning is that even if we are facing serious difficulties, we must remember that "He is our God and we are the people He shepherds." We must exercise our faith and trust in God and make things right, which may or may not be what we would want them to be or in the timeframe that we expect.

The **Second Reading** is from **St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (1:6-8, 13-14)**. The time of this writing is in the last year of Paul's life. He is in prison in Rome, and it is during a period of severe Roman persecutions. Paul is encouraging Timothy to be patient and to trust in the Lord Jesus to make things right. We should listen carefully to the advice that Paul gives. His advice is timeless.

The **Gospel Reading** is taken from the **Gospel of Luke (17:5-10)**. Again, we hear Jesus exaggerating to make a point. The point is that true Faith can work wonders if it is in line with the will of God and with our role in God's Plan of Salvation. The second part of this Gospel passage is a little more puzzling. Our role can take many different appearances. It can be highly visible or quite unnoticeable; but whatever it is, our reward in heaven is in proportion **to how well we fulfill our role**. Even then, "when we have done all we have been asked to do, we still must admit that we are unprofitable servants because we have done only what we were obliged to do."

We have all heard the line from scripture that says, "God's ways are not man's ways," and that is a good thing. With the way that society and the world are going these days, where else can we turn for true peace and security except to our God? So the question that we might ask ourselves is: "**When we are depressed or struggling, who do we turn to for peace and security?**" Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week! **MFB**