

HOMILY - TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C 2016

1. Feelings of prophet Habakkuk not that far from us today
 - a. Says: How long O Lord, I cry for help but you do not listen
 - b. I cry violence, and you do nothing
 - c. Everything is falling apart around me
2. We look at our government and the Congress cannot seem to get anything done
 - a. Everybody seems dissatisfied with the Presidential candidates
 - b. We know that we should be welcoming the stranger in our midst
 - i. After all Jesus says in Last Judgment that what you did to the stranger, you did to me
 - c. Yet we are afraid, will there be terrorists among those who come in
 - i. Will we be overwhelmed with the costs of welcoming strangers?
 - ii. How will we be able to help them so they can support their families?
 - d. We might say in our prayers, why aren't you doing anything?
 - e. Why can't we feel safe and comfortable, why do we have worries
3. God's answer to Habakkuk is the answer to us
 - a. First be patient, He gives us a vision of that plan in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist
 - b. God is intervening in the world, He is changing hearts, through hearts he will change the world
 - c. Of course, we are not satisfied, God's time is not our time
 - d. Way He changes the world is not the way we would
4. So, perhaps like the disciples, realizing our impatience for change we ask for faith
 - a. We ask God to give us the faith to understand to see things His way
 - b. Jesus response is if you had even the smallest amount of faith
 - i. Like a mustard seed, you could have power to change world such that you
 - ii. You could tell a tree to plant itself in the sea and it would obey you
 - c. Jesus seems to be saying instead of complaining about God's failures, with even the slightest faith we could change the world
 - d. It is not that God is failing to transform the world, we are not letting Him use our skills and talents to bring peace and comfort to those in need
5. He tells a parable to confirm this
 - a. This parable is about the welfare system of that era
 - b. Governments of that time did not care about widows and orphans, they were on their own
 - c. So welfare became family oriented
 - d. If you had a few acres of land, you would be poor in today's measurements but might still be able to support a servant with food and drink

- e. If your neighbors became orphaned by death of a father, you would be expected to take in one of the children as a servant
 - f. If you are the master and generously take in an able bodied person, you would expect him to do his share of work
 - g. After helping with the field work, you could expect him to serve the table
 - h. After serving the family, the servant would have time to care for himself
 - i. It would have seemed rather insolent for a person you have taken in to help to expect you to sit him at table like a guest
 - j. He is not a guest, he is a servant who should be grateful that he even has food and lodging
 - i. He could be out on the street begging
6. Jesus is telling us when we are unhappy with the way the world is, we should consider what we are asking for
- a. Are we just complaining to God and trying to tell Him how He should be running the world?
 - b. Would our prayers sound arrogant and insolent to us if we were sitting on God's throne?
7. Instead Jesus says we should have enough faith to realize that we are servants of God
- a. He has a plan and a mission for each one of us
 - b. That mission is not to expect God to do everything for us
 - c. He has called us to be His people
 - d. He has proclaimed that He has loved us so much as to die and rise for us
 - e. He continues to nourish us with His Body and Blood
8. As His beloved servants how are we going to share that love with our neighbors
- a. God does have a plan to save the world, to bring it to joy and peace
 - b. But that plan includes each one of us doing our part
 - c. He is calling us to change our hearts
 - d. We should not be demanding that God prove His love for us
 - e. Instead our prayers need to be, how can we show our gratitude for His love for us
 - f. What is he expecting us to do to make sure that we do our part in carrying out His plan?
 - g. If every Christian truly followed in the steps of Jesus what wonder might we see
 - h. The image of a tree planting itself in the middle of the sea could seem pretty tame compared to even half the Christian world truly loving their neighbors