



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

7 February 2021

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - Quinto Domingo después de Epifanía

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Welcome
 - Happy Birthday to Steve Tuesday the 9th
 - Our Mass today is with Special Intention to praise and to mourn the passing of our dear friend Bill Thomas.
 - Let us watch the news carefully and pray for the distribution of a vaccine so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
 - I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead.
- Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Mass of Special Intention

Our Mass today is with prayers, and with Special Intention for Bill Thomas.

Most loving Father, We offer our reverent prayers for Bill, who has joined you in heaven. We celebrate his life and pray for his soul.

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, You willingly gave Yourself up to death so that all people might be saved and pass from death into a new life. Listen to our prayers; look with love on Your people who mourn and pray for Bill.

May we feel the presence of Christ when we are confronted with the loss of those we love, and be comforted through our faith in God.

Lord Jesus, You alone are holy and compassionate; welcome Bill to life everlasting.

Amen



Gospel Mark 1:29-39

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



Homily

In the first reading we heard from Job. Wasn't that depressing? Maybe you didn't get all of that. Here's a recap... I will paraphrase it...

Isn't life a drag? We work hard all of our lives. We work for wages like slaves. I've been miserable for so long I don't sleep well and I don't want to get out of bed. Days go by quickly and each ends without hope. It all goes so fast and I don't think I will ever be happy again.

So I ask again, wasn't that depressing? Things do get better for Job later.

In the second reading Paul's epistle was better and picks you up if you read it thoroughly. He writes to his priests and the people of Corinth.

in my words... Preaching the Gospel has been imposed on me. If I were a tent preacher and a showman I would get recompense (meaning, the people would be a paying audience and toss me coins).

But he said he was doing his preaching willingly; that he was given a stewardship -- to teach and preach and spread the Good News. What compensation does he get for that?

Paul is describing that he has a right to earn a living as all people did then. But as an Apostle he does not earn a living. He is compelled to preach and there is no time left over to work. Nothing, including his livelihood will stand in the way of bringing the word of Christ to the people. In fact, he says that he has made himself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. His recompense is saving souls; and spreading the ministry of Jesus. He is content with his place in life.

Paul is happier than Job was.

In our Gospel we find Jesus at the home of Simon (that's Peter) and Andrew; and Peter's mother in law. It is interesting that we find nothing about Peter's wife in the Bible. Theologians believe that Peter was a widower, and also provided a home for his wife's mother.

The mother in law was with fever and Jesus healed her. She was so happy she prepared some refreshments. Only moments before she had been sick. Now she is the perfect hostess of the home. Five men could not get themselves some food and drink. This could have been the beginning of the old saying: a woman's work is never done.

In the Gospel the disciples gathered all the sick and those possessed by demons. Demonic possession can be, literally, possessed by a demon... or it can be a way of describing a medical condition which caused a person to cry out with pain... to seem possessed. At that time there was no efficient way to diagnose pain and illness.

Jesus cured them all. He drove out the demons and made those people well. Before dawn Jesus went to a quiet place to pray. The disciples found him later and Jesus said, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." That was simply put. Jesus was at peace and completely clear on things he had to do.

These three accounts take you from the misery of Job, through the devotion and impossible task that Paul worked at, to a day in the life of Jesus who was here to proclaim God's love. Which story do you live in now or have you lived in?

Is life impossible and awful and it will never change?... like Job?

Are you bound to a mission that consumes you and you just bear it and drive onward because that is your lot in life?... like Paul?

Are you here to accomplish something that is right for everyone and for yourself? Are you at peace with yourself and waiting for what the Lord gives you?... like Jesus?

You may think that none of these stories are close to your life or ever have been... or perhaps you've lived in all of them.

I hope you are or can move to the place of peace and comfort. To have time for God and time for others in your life who you love and who love you.

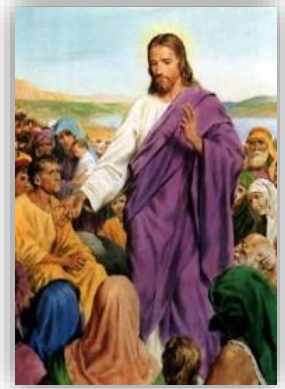


Evangelio Marco 1:29-39

Cuando salieron de la sinagoga, Jesús fue con Santiago y Juan a casa de Simón y Andrés. La suegra de Simón estaba en cama, con fiebre. Se lo dijeron a Jesús, y él se acercó, y tomándola de la mano la levantó; al momento se le quitó la fiebre y comenzó a atenderlos.

Al anochecer, cuando ya se había puesto el sol, llevaron todos los enfermos y endemoniados a Jesús, y el pueblo entero se reunió a la puerta. Jesús sanó de toda clase de enfermedades a mucha gente, y expulsó a muchos demonios; pero no dejaba que los demonios hablaran, porque ellos lo conocían.

De madrugada, cuando todavía estaba oscuro, Jesús se levantó y salió de la ciudad para ir a orar a un lugar solitario. Simón y sus compañeros fueron en busca de Jesús, y cuando lo encontraron le dijeron: —Todos te están buscando. Pero él les contestó: —Vamos a los otros lugares cercanos; también allí debo anunciar el mensaje, porque para esto he salido. Así que Jesús andaba por toda Galilea, anunciando el mensaje en las sinagogas de cada lugar y expulsando a los demonios.



Homilía

En la primera lectura escuchamos a Job. ¿No fue deprimente? Quizás no entendiste todo eso. Aquí hay un resumen ... lo parafrasearé ...

¿No es la vida un lastre? Trabajamos duro toda nuestra vida. Trabajamos por un salario como esclavos. He sido miserable durante tanto tiempo que no duermo bien y no quiero levantarme de la cama. Los días pasan rápido y cada uno termina sin esperanza. Todo va tan rápido y no creo que vuelva a ser feliz.

Así que pregunto de nuevo, ¿no fue deprimente? Las cosas mejoran para Job más tarde.

En la segunda lectura, la epístola de Pablo era mejor y te capta si la lees detenidamente. Escribe a sus sacerdotes y al pueblo de Corinto.

en mis palabras ... Se me ha impuesto la predicación del Evangelio. Si yo fuera un predicador de tiendas de campaña y un showman, obtendría una recompensa (es decir, la gente sería una audiencia que pagaría y me arrojaría monedas).

Pero dijo que estaba predicando de buena gana; que se le dio una mayordomía: enseñar, predicar y difundir las Buenas Nuevas. ¿Qué compensación recibe por eso?

Paul está describiendo que tiene derecho a ganarse la vida como lo hacía toda la gente entonces. Pero como apóstol no se gana la vida. Se ve obligado a predicar y no le queda tiempo para trabajar en un trabajo regular. Nada, incluido su sustento, se interpondrá en el camino de llevar la palabra de Cristo a la gente. De hecho, dice que se ha hecho esclavo de todos para ganarse al mayor número posible. Su recompensa es salvar almas; y difundiendo el ministerio de Jesús. Está contento con su lugar en la vida.

Paul es más feliz que Job.

En nuestro Evangelio encontramos a Jesús en la casa de Simón (ese es Pedro) y Andrés; y la suegra de Peter. Es interesante que no encontremos nada sobre la esposa de Pedro en la Biblia. Los teólogos creen que Peter era viudo y también proporcionó un hogar a la madre de su esposa.

La suegra estaba enferma de fiebre y Jesús la sanó. Estaba tan feliz que se levantó y preparó unos refrescos. Solo unos momentos antes había estado enferma. Ahora ella es la perfecta anfitriona del hogar. Cinco hombres no pudieron comer ni beber. Este podría haber sido el comienzo del viejo dicho: el trabajo de una mujer nunca se termina.

En el Evangelio los discípulos reunieron a todos los enfermos y endemoniados. La posesión demoníaca puede ser, literalmente, poseída por un demonio ... o puede ser una forma de describir una condición médica que hizo que

una persona gritara de dolor ... pareciera poseída. En ese momento no existía una forma eficaz de diagnosticar el dolor y la enfermedad.

Jesús los curó a todos. Expulsó a los demonios y sanó a esa gente.

Antes del amanecer, Jesús fue a un lugar tranquilo para orar. Los discípulos lo encontraron más tarde y Jesús dijo: "Vayamos a los pueblos vecinos, para que yo pueda proclamar el mensaje también allí; porque eso es lo que salí a hacer ". Eso fue puesto simplemente. Jesús estaba en paz y completamente claro sobre las cosas que tenía que hacer.

Estos tres relatos te llevan desde la miseria de Job, a través de la devoción y la tarea imposible en la que trabajó Pablo, hasta un día en la vida de Jesús que estaba allí para proclamar el amor de Dios. ¿En qué historia vives ahora o has vivido?

¿Es la vida imposible y horrible y nunca cambiará? ... ¿como Job?

¿Estás atado a una misión que te consume y simplemente lo soportas y sigues adelante porque ese es tu destino en la vida? ... como Paul?

¿Estás aquí para lograr algo que sea adecuado para todos y para ti? ¿Estás en paz contigo mismo y esperando lo que el Señor te da? ... como Jesús?

Puede pensar que ninguna de estas historias es cercana a su vida o alguna vez lo ha sido ... o quizás las ha vivido en todas.

Espero que esté, o pueda, mudarse a un lugar de paz y comodidad. Tener tiempo para Dios y tiempo para otros en tu vida a quienes amas y que te aman.

