

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time C2025

One day our Lord was telling his disciples that if someone does something wrong against you seven times in a single day, and then, seven times comes back to you to say "I am sorry, you have to forgive him". Imagine a little bit such a situation. It is not that really challenging and even confusing? Well that is the context that pushed the disciples to ask the Lord to increase their faith.

Faith here is not understood as knowledge of the things of God, but rather as trust in the word of God. Moreover it is not about the quantity, but rather the quality. That sort of faith is capable of transforming everything and making a difference in the lives of people.

Such a faith, however, is not of our own making, but a gift of God, which has to grow and become mature. To increase faith means to make it capable of understanding that God does not abandon us, even if we go through dark moments and hardships in life. It means also to be convinced that as bad as we might have it, we are not alone. God is with us; he accompanies us in each step of our life, sometimes encouraging us mysteriously so that we might not give up on life; at other times consoling us openly through the help of friends and relatives so that we remain serene in spite of our suffering and difficult situation.

Understood as God's gift, faith is a powerful force that can make the impossible become possible. That is why our Lord says in the Gospel that if we have faith as small as a grain of mustard, we can uproot big trees and change the world.

By saying so, our Lord is not calling us to use faith in order to force God to do whatever we like or want. Faith is not a means to be used to obtain at cheap cost all kinds of things we want. Faith does not even move any material object as a magnet does. What our Lord would like to say is that faith is capable of achieving what looks impossible to human eyes. It can find solutions for the situations that appear totally out of control.

However, whatever might be the size of our faith or its depth, it cannot, push us to claim any reward from God because we have it. When we have fulfilled many duties because they have been required by our faith, we have done only what we should do.

God does not owe us anything, because we believe in him. What we receive from him is pure grace and gift for which we have to be happy and thankful. In the same way, what we do in the name of our faith in him is just what we should do, because it is so. When we understand that truth, we become free men and women who act gratuitously by doing good things beyond a pursuit of interest and reward.

When we have done our best, we have only done our duty. And those who have done their duty have done only what, in any event, they could be compelled to do. That is the mystery of Jesus' Kingdom, namely that we gratefully do our duty; we are useless servants who hope for God's graciousness.

This is also the law of love. When we love, we do a lot of things that the love of our beloved ones dictates us. After we have done them, there is no claim to make. We have done only what we should do in our love. We have done what love has compelled us to do.

This is most of the time the case with the bringing up of children and the sacrifices parents accept for them. No parent is giving the best of himself for the children for a certain interest he wants to reap. Rather, he does everything with the whole of his heart, because that is his duty. All that helps understand why Jesus says, "When you have done all you have been commanded, say "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do".

Let us pray the Father to give us a bold faith amid the crises and the challenges of life. Let us ask him to help us grow in the understanding that we have to fulfill our duties out of love and not out of interest. Amen.

Habakkuk 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10



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