

June 21, 2009

12th Sunday Ordinary Time - Cycle B

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning Again because of the scaffolding and that we have to stay in one place so if I bore you, sorry. Today the Gospel is all filled with, the very last line explains the Gospel and it also explains the First and Second Reading. Who is this Who even the wind and the sea obey? And when we focus on, who is this? It goes all the way back to the First Reading from Job, huh? And God is looking at Job and says, "Who are you that you are going to sit there and question me? Were you there when I started at the beginning and I said the water will go this far, and no farther?" And so the question is answered, Who is this Who can stop the wind and the rain and the storm? And the answer is God. That God is in their midst. And then Jesus looks at him and says, "Have you not yet the faith? Do you not yet have faith? Don't you know who I am? Don't you know it is going to be okay? Don't you know I am here?" But before we even get to that we have to start where it begins. And Jesus tells the apostles, "Let us go to the other side." And then they got in the boat and they went to the other side. They obeyed Jesus.

So the first question we have to ask ourselves today is... are we doing the will of God? Right now at this part of your life? Because if you are doing your own will or doing your own thing, you are doing what you want to do but God says, "Hey great, you want to be God of your own life, I will let you. I will let you be God. So when the storm comes... ok God take care of it. Don't come running to me. You are the God of your life. You are doing what you want so when the storms of life come, you take care of the storm because you are God. You are taking care of your own life. You want to run your life, please do. But when problems come, remember who is god of your life. You are, huh?" So the first thing I am going to have to ask you today is are you in charge of your life or is God in charge of your life? If you are in charge of your life, don't call God when the storms come because you are the god of your own life. So that is the first thing. Are you the god of your life? If not, it is a very simple thing, yeah, it's a surrender. Lord, I want to do what you command. Because you do realize, God wants you to be happy more than you want to be happy. God wants to take care of you more than you could ever take care of yourself. God has a plan for your life. You can do what you want. He gave you free will. But He wants you to have peace. He wants you to have joy. He wants you to have happiness. And that come from doing what He says not what you say. So that is the first part.

The second part is that when the storms of life do come, and we are in the Lord and we have surrendered and we let him take control of our life; then there is nothing to be afraid of. Do you ever sit there and go back in your life and think, wow it must have been so great to be apostles. Jesus was right there in the boat. So when the storm came, they got to say, "Jesus, wake up. Excuse me, there is a storm. Don't you care?" You think they had it good, huh? We have it much better than the apostles. Jesus isn't in our boat, He is in our heart. He is in our bodies. He is in our lives. So in the midst of the storm of your life, whatever it happens to be, you can see the Church is in a very big storm. It is a big

chaotic moment. It... I will tell you more about it after. But, it is a humungous mess. It is just a mess. And, it is going to get worse.

Every one of us has some storms. We could have sickness. It could be a financial storm. It could be the death of somebody you love. It could be the anxiety of your family. It could be the anxiety of what is going to happen later. Every one of us here has some kind of storm we have to deal with. I do. It seems like almost every day there is another storm. And we can either sit there and go crazy over our storms and that is too often what I do or we can remember, I am not alone. Jesus Christ, who is God, lives in my heart.

Today Jesus Christ, who is God, will take up residence in little Robert John Brown. Jesus will live in Robert forever as we baptize him. That is the gift of the baptized. We are not playing a game with Christ, you know? I don't know if I believe in God or not you know He may or may not... It has nothing to do with that. This is the greatest reality that there is. That today little Robert John Brown, God will live inside of him forever. And there will never be a day that Robert, there will never be a day that he is alone. Never. There will never be a day that you and I are ever alone. Ever. Jesus Christ lives inside of you. So what storm is there in your life right now that is causing you to be afraid? All you have to do is be still. Remember Who lives inside of you. Call out to Him like the apostles did. And then this God who lives inside of you can then prove that He is God. Stay quiet. Be still. He can deal with the storm in your life but will you let Him? Will you cry out to Him? He lives within you. Let Him calm whatever storm you are dealing with now. Quiet. Be still. He is God. You and I have nothing to be afraid of. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.