

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14, 2010

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Good morning. I always like the last line of the Gospel, "Woe to you when all speak well of you," because I have never had that problem myself. But any way as some of you know so very well. As we focus on the readings today and focus on God's word we need to go to what St. Paul says. He says, "If our reward is limited to this present life," or if our focus is on this present life, "we are the most pitiful of all people." We are the most pitiful of all people if our reward and our goal is only focused on this life. So this is to give us the context of the Gospel and the first reading. When we listen to the Gospel, of course, Jesus takes the whole world and He puts it upside down and He goes the exact opposite. He says, "Blessed are the poor." That is what He says. He says, "Blessed are those who weep." That is what He says.

And then in Luke's Gospel, He does the "woes" and He says, "Woe to you who are rich. Woe to you who laugh." It is the exact opposite of what we are living for. Most people they try to focus and they try to get this, this earth is where everything is suppose to happen. If you listen to a lot of the preaching people on TV they talk about how God will bless you and He is going to love you and you are going to be rewarded. I had a guy who wanted to come who was a Catholic Charismatic and wanted to preach a mission here. He sent me his CD and it said his whole thing was if you come to Jesus you will be blessed financially and I pushed it away. I said absolutely not! Why don't you go ahead and tell those people in Haiti who just died. Those people who live in poor, who love the Lord, who give their life to the Lord. The Lord is going to bless you abundantly. And those people who died in the tsunami, oh yeah God is going to bless you people. And the people who are dying in right now in Africa, yeah you come to Jesus and He is going to bless you abundantly. He is going to give you your five cars and bless you with all this money. Really? Do you see how screwed up people are? Do you see how they come to Jesus for, "Jesus bless me and give me things on this earth." When you have the holy, holy people like the three children at, Fatima, like St. Bernadette who just we just celebrated the Feast of Lourdes this past week. Our Lady said the same thing to each of the children – "I cannot promise you happiness on earth." Now if the Mother of God cannot promise you happiness on earth, who is any preacher to do the same? Who are any of you to sit there and say this is what God wants if the Mother of God cannot promise happiness on earth who of us can say that God wants us to be blessed on earth? Who? Because if you do, what arrogance. That God said no, "bless those who are poor" that is what He says. So He takes it and He puts it upside down. What we have got to do is acknowledge that God is not limited to this earth. That this world is not our home; that we are called to live in a better place. That this is the place we have got to go through and as we say this in the one prayer we all say at the end rosary, Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. And she cries out to this sorrow of pain or this place of sorrow and so it is. And we know this but we don't stay focused on this. The key is if we sit there and we listen to the First Reading, "Blessed are those who..." thanks Ed. He is the only one who paid any attention to the First Reading. Geez! Blessed are they who trust in the Lord. Gee, I'll tell you! The reality is, that is the call. That the call for you and me is to trust in the Lord in the midst of the darkness

Now think about this, a hundred billion years from now when we are still alive, God willing and we are in heaven and we look back on our time on earth, are you going to say to me, "hey Father, remember when I did all that suffering? Remember when we were suffering and it was really hard? It was a bad economy and I had all of these problems in my life, remember? And I am going to say, "No, do you?" And you are going to say, "No, I don't remember either." Someone just brought it up the other day. A

hundred billion years from now you are not going to care. So what we have got to do is have the perspective of eternity to be able to deal with this life. Because if not when things are taken away and things don't go your way you are going to blame God. You are going to say, "Well, I have done all of these things for God why isn't God blessing me? Am I in sin? Is there something wrong with my life? Did I do this? Is God punishing me? We try to focus the reality on this life. It doesn't make sense people if you only look at life from this world. It just doesn't.

Good people suffer. People that give their life to God, everything they lose, everything. People who are evil seem to get lots of money. They seem to do real well, people who are evil, evil, evil people. So you can't try to make sense out of this world only with the perspective of this earth. You have always got to look at the perspective from eternity to make any sense. What we have got to do in the midst of all the times whether it is good or whether it is bad, I offer to you what Jesus offers to you when He appeared to Sr. Faustina and He had that image painted of Him and He says, "under the image I want you to put Jesus I trust in Thee." So when things go terribly wrong in our life what are we suppose to do - Jesus, I trust in Thee. When people talk arrogantly about you what are you suppose to do - Jesus I trust in Thee. When you are sick and you have to get operated on, what do you say - Jesus I trust in Thee. When you just lost your job and you are not really sure where the next paycheck is going to come from, what do you say - Jesus I trust in Thee. That no matter what the problem is on earth we don't just find the focus on what is happening now. We look to the God of the Universe and say, "Jesus in the midst of all of this I trust in Thee." And when we really mean it , when we really surrender ourselves, I can't just focus on this, I just can't focus on me, Jesus I focus on Thee. And You said, Jesus, blessed are those who trust in You. So Jesus, I trust in Thee." And then He promises in Romans 8:28, what does He say, "He will make all things work together for good, for those who love Him and are called love Him and are called by His decrees." That means if you surrender yourself to Him, if you say, "Okay God," He promises to make it work out for good. He promises. But the promises of making things work out for good, is not just on earth. Again God does bless us abundantly. And some people follow Him to be blessed abundantly. But I am promising you there will be a day when those blessings He keeps giving you are going to dry up and He is going to look at you and say, "Will you love me when I don't give you things? Will you love me when you feel bad? Will you love me when things don't go your way? And you are going to have to say, "Yes Lord. I love You for you not just for what You do for me."

All the saints went through times of suffering and so will you and I. The key is not to just focus on the world but to focus on Him and say Jesus I trust in Thee. What is it - Jesus I trust in Thee. If you and I have to say that a thousand times a day let it be so, so it becomes real. I don't trust in me, I don't trust in my money, I don't trust in the power of the world, Jesus I trust in Thee. You got it? Get it? Gonna live it? May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.