**“God’s power is manifested in nature, while He is in the silence.”**

All our readings today point us to the phrase, ***“God’s power is manifested in nature, while He is in the silence.”*** God manifests Himself to us in many ways. He manifests His power to us in what He has created. However, He is present to us personally in the silence of our hearts. His power is over all things because He created all things. God reminds us to always keep our focus on Him.

In our first reading, Prophet Elijah thought He was a failure because he could not convert his people from idolatry. In his shame, he wanted to die because he thought God had abandoned him. However, God searched for Elijah and reached out to strengthen his heart. God told Him to go to the mountains because God wanted to pass by Elijah.

Elijah must have been full of joy to hear this. He imagined that his God that he thought was far from him would manifest Himself to him in all His power and majesty. However, Elijah did not find God in a heavy and strong rock shattering wind. He also could not find God in a rumbling and powerful earthquake neither did he find God in the burning fire that did not destroy or scourged him.

To Elijah’s amazement, he found God’s presence in a breeze so gentle that it sounded like a tiny whisper. To the credit of Elijah, he knew that it was God. He hid his face in his cloak and used the cave as a cover. He must have remembered what happened to Moses when God manifested Himself to him. He also came to understand the lesson God taught him. God wanted Elijah to know that without fanfare, in His own time and way, God would bring His people back to Himself.

We too should learn from the lesson Elijah learned that though sometimes, we would like God to intervene dramatically in our affairs, God would act in His time and in His way because ***“God’s power is manifested in nature, while He is in the silence”***. We sometimes ask, why God could not use His power to bring about an end to the destruction of human life through abortion! Why He could not put an end to cancer and all the diseases that affects us, or why could He not get rid of the big bad wolf, the devil who is bent on tormenting us, by making our lives a living hell.

To these and similar questions we might hear, God’s answer to us is like His answer to Elijah. God will do things in His own way and at His own time. To accept God’s ways and timing requires great faith and humility. It is through faith that we are moved to believe that God is in control and it is humility that would help us understand that His way of control is the best way we could never imagine.

In our second reading, we find Paul like Elijah frustrated, sorrowful, in pain, and in anguish at the hardness of heart of his people the Jews. Why, because they refused to believe in the Gospel of Jesus. In showing his love for them, Paul desired the greatest love for them and wished that he could trade places with them. As Jesus said, there is no greater love than one to lay down his life for ones friends.

Paul listed all the things that God had done for his chosen brethren in the flesh. Paul’s list consists of God choosing them as His people, He summarized in not so many words, what had happened from the time of their Exodus from Egypt. How God had been gracious and compassionate to them even when they rejected Him. And that God’s greatest promise, the Messiah would come from them as Lord of our salvation.

But as Paul said somewhere in Scripture, God allowed the Jews rejection of His beloved Son, so He could show mercy to the Gentiles. When a certain number of Gentiles who believe in Him had been reached, God in His own way and time, would then show mercy to the Jews. He would then act to bring the Jews back to Himself so that both Jews and Gentiles could receive God’s mercy because ***“God’s power is manifested in nature, while He is in the silence”***.

In our Gospel reading, we find that after Jesus had fed the people who were hungry spiritually, He also fed them with good and substantial food for their physical nourishment. However, to fulfill His earlier desire to be along for a while after He heard of the murder of His cousin John the Baptist, Jesus told His disciples to go ahead of Him while He dispersed the crowd. He then went to fulfill His desire to pray to His Father and in His humanity, to mourn privately for His cousin.

We are told by Matthew that between the hours of 3 AM and 6 AM, during a nasty storm, His disciples saw someone walking on the water! They were terrified! However, Jesus told them not to be afraid and said **“…It is I.”** The dark mysterious depths of the ocean could be terrifying and deadly. That is why in the Bible, power over deep waters is seen as a sign of divinity. Jesus’ walking on water was a sign of His divinity. Jesus wanted to show He had power over the great force that can bring death. ***“God’s power is manifested in nature, while He is in the silence”***.

Peter then tested Jesus by saying, if Jesus is God, He should command him to come to Him. Again to show that God has power over nature, Jesus told Peter to come to Him. Peter walked on water for a while but then took his focus away from the source of his power, Jesus, who was in front of Him. He became afraid of the storm and began to sink. However, Peter regained his focus on the Source of his power by calling out to Jesus to save him.

Peter taught us a lesson that our focus should always be on God and when we are troubled or we are going through the eye of the storm, we should call on Jesus by saying, **“Lord save me,”** or say, ***“Jesus help me,”***and He would respond because, He is our God who is all powerful, merciful, and compassionate.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Jesus for His grace so we can ***listen to His silence and hear His Whisper.***