**“Lord Increase Our Faith”**

All our readings are about having faith in God. They point to us that God’s promises are guaranteed. That God will always deliver at the right time, what He promised. However, though His timing might be different from our timing, He wants us to exercise sincere faith, trust, and patience by faithfully waiting for His response to our petitions and prayers. His time is always the only right time. He is never late nor never early.

In our first reading, Prophet Habakkuk cried out to God about the plight of any ‘just’ person of any age or era. What they might say about the evil that was going on in his world. His lamentation was specific about violence and destruction going on in his world. He asked why God seems to look the other way. Why didn’t God, who is all powerful, and Almighty not rain down thunder and lightning on those who were causing misery in the world? Why doesn’t He just take them out?

In answering him, God told Habakkuk to exercise sincere faith and patience. He told him not to jump into rash and uninformed judgment of His silence and non-response in accordance to Habakkuk’s expected timing. Our Lord told him that those who are just by having faith in Him would live eternally with Him in heaven. Meaning that the unjust would be condemned to eternal damnation.

We can relate to the prophets out-cry in our present age. We hear almost daily about school shootings which are hard to keep count of. We hear about the strong or powerful exploiting the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable without any reservations or any conscience.

Yes, we sometimes ask where God is in all these turmoil! How come He is not acting swiftly in taking care of the bad actors who daily are giving us grieve in our world? God’s answer to us would be, we should have sincere faith in Him. He is our God who is all knowing and all powerful. He would render justice at the right time.

In Paul’s letter to Timothy, Paul told Timothy that Timothy received God the Holy Spirit when he Paul laid his hands on him. That he received the Holy Spirit who empowers him to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ without fear. And that though Timothy was young, he should not be afraid to speak boldly about the faith passed on to him. And he should not be afraid of suffering for Christ because of proclaiming the Good News of our salvation. And that he should have sincere faith in God who in time, would make all things right.

We too are asked by God to speak boldly of His unadulterated message of salvation. We should not be afraid of those who can harm or kill the body; but have no power to condemn anyone to hell. We should not be afraid of proclaiming from the roof tops in the face of danger, or suffering, or opposition, the authentic God News Jesus passed on through His apostles.

The same theme of having faith in God is made crystal clear by the apostles. They asked Jesus directly for increase in faith. They realized that they could not do it on their own. We too should always emulate the apostles in asking for deeper faith from God.

Jesus’ answer to His apostles and us is very profound. He compared having sincere faith the size of a mustard seed, to being empowered to tell a mulberry tree to be uprooted and relocate into the sea and it would do so. The depth of the faith in God that Jesus wants us to have is not the type of faith one would have of another person.

For example when a parent says to a child that I have faith in you to do good works. Well, the outcome of that parent’s faith in the child depends on whether the child would do the works or not. However, the type of faith that comes from God that Jesus is talking about would have the power over nature. It is a supernatural faith from God that could move a tree by the sheer force of our willing it to be moved.

This supernatural faith, envisions a radically changed world in which a tree can both thrive on land and as well in the sea. It is a faith that means God can do anything that would blow our minds away and leave us speechless about the awesome power of God! Jesus demands that our faith should surpass just trusting confidence a parent would have about their child. The faith Jesus demands of us is the full acceptance of His Gospel. It encompasses full acceptance and not partial acceptance of the truth as proclaimed by a living and loving God.

As we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for more faith.