

Fifth Ordinary Time – Year B

February 4, 2018

Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC

Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

WELCOME to this AMAZING Church where we hear God's Word and feast at this Table for spiritual comfort where **YOU're LOVED** without measure!

My sisters and brothers; enduring members of this Church and new-found-Friends of Christ the Good Shepherd, we are all called to LIVE, SEE, BREATHE beyond life's routine.

Job asks us today: "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" Is not woman's life a drudgery? Yes, we know that in the end, Job received so many gifts from God because his faith did not fail.

We can contrast the feelings of Job in the first reading today with those of Jesus in the Gospel: "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

In the First Letter to the Corinthians. Saint Paul tells us of his challenges: "All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it."

Today in the three readings we are given the inner sense of three different people and their relationship to what the God of Peace and Love has asked of them. We can put them in this order:

- Job speaks before knowing of the salvation given to us in Christ Jesus;

- Jesus speaks to us of His inner calling to proclaim the Good News; and
- Saint Paul then tells us how to proclaim that Good News so that all can come to know Jesus.

Most of us probably already know the story of Job. He was a man who believed completely in the Lord and had receive enormous blessings. The devil tries to undo this faith of Job. Eventually all the blessings are removed and sufferings are heaped on Job. While Job questions what is happening, he never doubts nor loses faith.

- ❖ Are you and I that strong in faith?
- ❖ Can we trust God even when we question?
- ❖ Do we accept both blessings and sufferings from our Lord?

The second reading, from the First Letter to the Corinthians, is Saint Paul's account of how he tries to live the Good News. Saint Paul is clear: I must preach the Good News! Here we see Saint Paul not just enduring all of the trials and tribulations, but recognizing that preaching the Good News is required of him because he believes in Jesus.

- ❖ Does our faith impel us to share our faith with others?
- ❖ Does our faith in a God of Peace and Love motivate us to challenge unjust barriers?
- ❖ Are we able to tell others about our faith in Jesus?
- ❖ Are we willing to suffer because we believe that Jesus is the Lord?

The Gospel today is from Saint Mark. We are still at the beginning of this Gospel. Jesus is just beginning His public ministry.

What is truly strong in the Gospel today is that everyone is looking for Jesus and that there is no place for Him to be away from the people.

Jesus responds to that by saying: “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

The whole purpose of the life of Jesus is to preach the Kingdom; to proclaim the Good News: God loves us and invites us to share His life.

Can you believe that?

My sisters and brothers; enduring members of this Church and new-found-Friends of Christ the Good Shepherd, LIVE God’s Peace and Love; SEE God’s Peace and Love; and BREATHE God’s Peace and Love beyond life’s routine.

Can you believe that?