

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time [B]

June 28, 2015

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Wisdom 1:13-15:23-24; 2 Cor. 8:7-9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-14; 35-43

When a loved one dies or suffers an accident I am asked so many times: "Why? Why does God allow death to come to us? Why does he inflict pain and suffering to the innocent? Why didn't God create a world in which pain, suffering or death do not exist?" It is a mystery.

In our first reading today we heard: *God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being...But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who belong to his company experience it.*

Here on our earth nature has its own death and rebirth cycles; every year we have spring, summer, fall, and winter. Having a physical body subjects us nature's physical laws. Matter breaks down, living cells break down, but all the while there is a cosmic force of recycling at work. It's all a part of existence. Rebirth exists.

Our faith and the study of theology give us a perspective that science does not give. The theological insight is expressed in the words we just heard: For God *fashioned all things that they might have being.*" God's original intention for human beings, those He made in His own image and likeness, was that His sons and daughters would have life and life everlasting with Him.

We have to know that God is a God of the living. Death is something that is only temporary; it is a departure for a while, not an ending. A famous English saint, St. Bede, once wrote some thoughts saying; "We seem to give them back to you, O God, who gave them first to us. Yet as you did not lose them in the giving, so we do not lose them by their return. Not as the world gives, do you give. What you give you do not take away. For what is yours is also ours. We are yours and life is eternal. And love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and a horizon is but the limit of our sight."

Human choices have introduced suffering, loss, pain, and death into our world, into the world God has given us. It was not God's choice that we should suffer. In Adam and Eve's Garden there was no pain, loss, suffering and death. Nevertheless, these things are now found in our human existence. What is so remarkable is the fact that God Himself became one of us; God Himself has, out of love for us, entered into and taken on our sins and our suffering in order to offer us His life once again by redeeming us from all that is evil, even death itself.

That is the miracles of today's Gospel reading and many miracles of Jesus and we note that they all dealt with overcoming human loss, pain, suffering, and death. Today's reading is about the raising of the little daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:21-43). Others were

about the widow's son From Nain whom Jesus raised from the dead (Luke 7:11-16). And then there was that final miracle of Jesus when just before He Himself was to suffer and die He raised Lazarus from the dead three days after his burial (John 11:1-44).

*They assure us that; God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being...For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him.*

*The answers to the questions are the words of Jesus we heard in today's Gospel.*

- "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." (Mark 5:34)
- "Do not be afraid; just have faith." (Mark 5:36)

Let us ask our Lord to give the grace that will help us have strong faith in facing the challenges and worries brought about by pain, suffering and death.