

Sunday June 21, 2020

The Third Sunday of Job

Job 14:7-15, 19:23-27

Believe it or not, Mr. Ripley, this morning's passages are centered and focused on hope. When reading them I thought they were the rantings of a suicidal man. Thankfully, despair did not enter into the equation of Job's situation. It is beautiful to see certain connections in scripture that you never saw before or have them pointed out to you. There is a beautiful connection between the verses in Job this morning and Psalm 22 and Our Lord's crucifixion. All three are centered and rooted in hope. For Job in the midst of his incredible despair he still has hope. They might be moments of longing hope, but it is still hope. So strong is his hope that he wants God to hear him and maybe even answer. Ps 39:7, "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You." Job's longing hope rests on his faith in God and his experiences of God in the past. Job's most fundamental hope is that he will see God. We are told this later on in chapter 19 verses 26-27. Job's faith tells him that his redeemer lives and Job wants to meet Him and see Him in the flesh.

These verses this morning from Job qualify as laments. Prayer which can include laments are the proper response to suffering. If there is one thing to remember from the many lessons of Job it is the power of prayer. This is another connection between Job and Psalm 22. They are both lamentful prayers in a time of great suffering.

Psalm 22 is very unique and prophetic as a psalm. It was this lamentful psalm that Our Lord prayed while He was dying on the cross. Mathew 27:46, "And about the third hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, "My God, my God why have

You forsaken Me?” Keep in mind that these words do not describe the Father turning His back on His Son. Jesus is praying the entire psalm to His Father. In the depths of His despair, Jesus knew that God the Father sees all things and will answer. Keep in mind that God is our God too. Jesus sets this beautiful example for us when He calls Him, My God.

Jesus’s use of Psalm 22 and the Book of Job reminds us that we are in a relationship with God. We can speak to God in anger, joy, happiness, fear and thanksgiving. There should be that freedom in our relationship with Him to share the good and bad things in our lives. He is God. Trust me He can take whatever we throw at Him or present to Him. When we do this we are trusting and know that He hears us. That kind of trust and faith leads to a greater capacity of hope. Job not only has hope that God hears him, but hope that he would see God face to face. So strong is Job’s hope, that he cries out in his suffering, “I know that my redeemer lives.” His God is alive and will redeem him. As Christians we know this redeemer to be Jesus Christ. He is the same redeemer that Job cried out to. Our hope and faith has been realized. Jesus came and redeemed us on the cross. In the midst of His suffering we were redeemed. As Christians, our hope has a great capacity because we believe that He will return. Our relationship with God continues to grow and evolve. We have all the more reason to hope. When He does return we will all see Him face to face. Knowing how God deals with us, our hope and faith will greatly exceed our expectation.

Happy Father’s Day to all the dads and granddads in our parish. May God bless you with good health and happiness and may you live long enough to see your grandchildren’s children. Take care and stay cool, Pastor D