

HE WAS A MAN FILLED WITH FAITH: TUESDAY, 10TH MAY, 2022, WEEK IV, EASTER.

ACTS 11:19-26; PSALM 87; JOHN 10:22-30

In today's First Reading, we see how God used the persecution of Stephen to cause the Good News to spread to the Gentiles. It is important to remind ourselves that we are serving a God who always brings something good and glorious from what may seem like misfortune in our lives.

Because the Gentiles were accepting the faith, there was significant growth in the Church in Antioch. Hence, the Church in Jerusalem (the headquarters) sent Barnabas to encourage the believers. He had been identified as a man with the gift of encouragement.

Should we pause here and examine ourselves?

Do we encourage people and help to build them and bring the best out of them or do we discourage people, making them feel little or worthless, killing dreams, potential and visions by our words?

Barnabas is described in this text in three ways:

- A. He was a good man.
- B He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- C. He was filled with faith.

Today, let us reflect on what it means to be filled with faith. I shall mention three qualities of a person of faith.

I. They believe strongly in the reality of God, the omnipotence of His power and the fact that He knows and sees everything, and they trust His wisdom, no matter what happens to them.

II. They are not broken to pieces in the face of adversity. Rather, they are still able to praise God in the storm. They worry less and trust more, even when the odds are against them.

III. They believe what God says and promises, even when their feelings, other people's opinions and what is happening around them seems to negate God's words and promises.

In the Gospel of today, Jesus accused His listeners of lacking faith because they refused to believe what He told them. Instead, they accentuated their feelings and prejudices above God's word.

May we ask the Lord today to help to deepen our faith, so that like Barnabas, we can also be rightly called people of lively faith.