

PUTTING UP WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE: WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY, 2021, WEEK 16, YEAR I.

EXODUS 16:1-5, 9-15; PSALM 78; MATTHEW 13:1-9

The first reading of yesterday ended with God's miraculous deliverance of the people of Israel and how they sang a song of praise.

Today, just a month after, the same people anticipated a short supply of food and they started to complain bitterly, they looked back at their past selectively to favour their complaint. They thought of their time in Egypt as a good one, they lost sight of God's future for them, they began to accuse God and Moses of incompetence and evil intention.

Today, I will not focus on the people, I will keep that for another day, let us look at how God responded.

God could have been very angry with these people and punished them immediately.

Most of us can not put up with this attitude from others even when we are not exempt from such tendencies. We are angry and irritated when people we have been kind to, forget the past and start blaming us or acting as if we have not been good to them, when people accuse us of having a bad intention or of being untrustworthy.

Instead of God being angry, He showed them mercy, He gave them food in a miraculous way. Even though they called this food Manna meaning what is this. God was still patient, kind and merciful to them.

From the Gospel of today, we also have a lesson on patience. We have the parable of the sower, not all the seeds he sows will fall on the good soil but then the sower needs to learn patience because some seeds may waste but some will definitely sprout as well.

We pray that the Lord may give us something of His patience and kindness especially when we are dealing with difficult people, people with negative energy, people who are ungrateful, people who are fault finders and blamers, people who are quick to accuse, complain, confront, judge and take offence at everything.