

JOY AT HIS FEET: 16TH SUNDAY, YEAR C, YEAR II, 17 JULY, 2022.

GENESIS 18:1-10; PSALM 15; COLOSSIANS 1:24-28; LUKE 10:38-42

Grace and peace to you my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. Today is the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

Let us begin our reflection today with the First Reading. In life, no one can have everything - we shall have some things and lack some things. Secondly, we all have things that we will worry about. When people ask, "How are things with you?", we mostly reply, "Everything is fine." Well, this cannot be true for anyone as long as they are in this world. Everything cannot be fine and everything is not meant to be fine.

However, no matter what we lack or what is wrong, we can still live a meaningful and joyful life.

Abraham was wealthy but he had no child. In those days, to be childless attracted all kinds of insults and discrimination. But here is the strength of this story - Abraham was childless but he refused to be a miserable old man. He chose to be and to remain, kind, warm, hospitable and loving to people. We see this manifested in the way he hosted the three divine visitors whom he saw passing by his house. His kindness caused him to receive God's blessings.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul says that he rejoices in his suffering. That is, "I may be suffering but I refuse to be miserable." It means therefore, that it is possible to still have joy even when we have troubles. There are people today who have become alcoholic, abrasive, aggressive, abusive to others, cruel and self-destructive, people who have lost their glow, all because of the storms of their lives.

If we allow God in, if we seek help at His feet, then He will help us to find joy and meaning in life, no matter what we are going through. Those who have discovered the strength of being at His feet, are those who have a summer spirit in the winter of their lives.

The Gospel of today is so beautiful. Sadly, there is no time to do an in-depth analysis but then we can still connect the message.

Jesus told Martha, "you worry and fret about so many things." This evaluation was not just based on what was immediately happening but from someone who knew Martha's temperament so well. What Jesus said about Martha could be true for many of us - we worry and fret about so many things and only a few things are needed. We worry about so many things that are unnecessary and things that we can't change. The first message of the Lord to us is to learn to choose our worries.

Then, like Mary, let us bring those things, those concerns that are necessary, to the feet of the Lord. When we begin to spend time at His feet, we become more aware that our troubles are nothing compared to His love and power. At the feet of the Lord, our lives become more meaningful and joyful, and we are informed, renewed and refreshed, empowered and blessed with wisdom and peace. We receive strength to face our storms and rejoice even in affliction. This is why we must never be too busy to be at the feet of the Lord daily.

Conclusion/Summary

Like Abraham, let us be resolved by the help of God's grace to not allow the vicissitudes of life to take away our joy, warmth, kindness, the beauty and the meaning of life.

Like Mary, let us discover the power of just being at the feet of Jesus. There we find peace, truth, rest, purpose and the reason to be happy, no matter what life throws at us.

Lord, I come to your feet. Teach me, love me, hold me, help me to grow, help me to be kind, help me to have joy, help me to be everything you want me to be, Amen.