

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

TRUSTING FAITH AND HUMILITY



This Sunday's Gospel invites us, in the first part, to live with trusting faith and, in the second, to serve with humility. These are two clear messages given by Jesus in these excerpts from his preaching. Jesus has the gift of presenting simple advice that goes to the heart of his disciples' lives. He spent three years training them and instilling His spirit in them so that they, in turn, could do the same with those they would join in their preaching after the resurrection. The two attitudes trusting faith and humble service are not self-evident. In both cases, they disrupt our usual ways of doing things and provoke us.

Jesus' words are well known: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you would have said to this tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would have obeyed you." I've heard people claiming to put this into practice by asking the Lord for anything and everything without discernment. I was surprised, and they responded with this phrase from the Gospel. That's why I've always had difficulty understanding what Jesus means here. It's not a magical faith like that of the people we've heard about, a faith that's like a trick to get whatever you want. This kind of faith was denounced in the Old Testament. It was this kind of faith that led the Hebrew people to create idols and abandon the Covenant with God to indulge in their aspirations for power and might instead of allowing themselves to be inhabited by the presence of their God.

You see that throughout the history of salvation, trusting faith is lived in a personal relationship with God; it is not a magical or self-serving faith. She expresses her requests and desires, of course, but what characterizes her is that her requests and desires are modeled on God's. **They are not "my" requests and "my" desires. They are God's requests and desires.**

We understand, then, why Jesus says not to be afraid to ask, to develop our faith, because by developing it, it brings us into the intimacy of God. It opens a space, a world where everything is possible, far beyond what we can imagine with our human reflexes. Trusting faith cannot be separated from love. Faith without love is dead faith. It withers away. **Love is the measure of FAITH. If we have this kind of faith, yes, then! everything becomes possible, because everything is possible with LOVE. Even a tiny faith accomplishes incomparable things on the spiritual level.**

Let us now turn to the second attitude Jesus asks for: humility in service. As members of the Church, we are invited to recognize that we are interchangeable, unnecessary, useless, not because we lack talent, but because we are passing away and others will come. We are totally dependent on God before Him; with no special rights we could claim. This is therefore an invitation to humility that Jesus addresses to all His disciples in presenting this scene of the Master and His servants.

May our prayer today be a selfless prayer that centers us on the Lord. Yes, Lord, increase our FAITH and make us humble servants in the exercise of their gifts and charisms in the service of the Church.

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