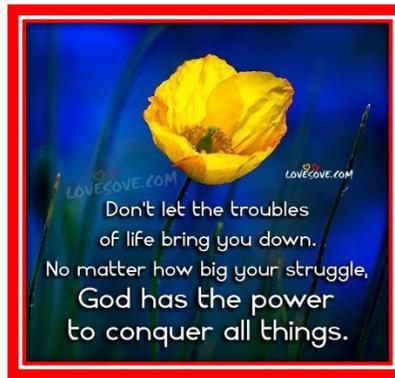
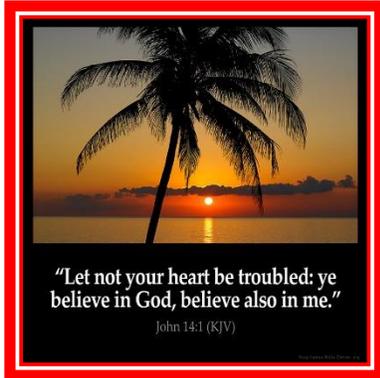


May 10, 2020 – 5th Sunday of Easter



**"Drowning in life is an impossibility when we resign ourselves to the complete Power and Providence of the Lord!"
(Acts 6:1-7, 1 Pet 2:4-9 and Jn 14:1-12)**

1. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (Jn 14: 1).

The Gospel of the Day is an assuring lesson by the Lord – the Way, the Truth, and the Life – to His disciples to trust deeper and place their hopes in Him. The Gospel begins with the statement: "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (Jn 14: 1). The context of this particular statement is Jesus having The Last Supper with His chosen disciples. "In a few hours from now, He will be undergoing an immense "agony" in the Garden of Gethsemane and a little later, He would be undergoing excruciating humiliation and a painful death on the Cross" *Yet with* this impending danger, the Lord is at peace within Himself. He not only nurtures a peace within; He even assures this peace to His followers exhorting them: "Do not be troubled!"

What gave Jesus this tremendous power to have inner serenity and peace, in the face of agonizing trouble? It was His relationship with His Abba... His Heavenly Father! He came to this world solely to do the Will of His Father and it was the assurance of the Father, with Him, that would be the secret of His Success in Mission!

As Christians, don't we also face immense pressures and difficulties in life? persecutions in witnessing our faith in the society challenge to live an authentic Christian life in a corrupt society and struggles to live a holy life, in the midst of alluring sinful tendencies. What can give us the power to have inner serenity and peace, in the face of such agonizing troubles? It is only our relationship to the Father, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit! It is PRAYER alone that can take us through the storms of life!

The Psalmist says, "I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Ps 4:8). Isaiah 43:2 promises: "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown". Yes, the one who has immense faith and trust in God has absolutely nothing to worry, even in the midst of any storm or squall and who has great confidence and belief in Divine Providence has just nothing to fear, even in the midst of any horror or terror.

Jesus was in communion with His Father. Even when Jesus faced the greatest storm of His life – His passion and death – He was able to go through the crisis in peace and serenity. Before being arrested and taken for being crucified, Jesus assures peace and joy for his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (Jn 14: 27).

The Lord today invites us to have this same kind of faith and trust in Him and His Divine Providence. Let us realize that we are a chosen generation – God has called and chosen each one of us to live a life in Him by totally trusting in Him! Faith and Trust in Him also demand that we set proper priorities and make choices for the Lord and His Kingdom. The community of disciples, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, is a beautiful inspiration for all of us to set proper priorities for the Lord. When they realized that there was a danger to sideline the 'Word of the Lord' to other 'works of the Lord,' they set apart a few people for the charitable service while they others devoted to prayer and ministry of the Word.

Life will, undoubtedly, bring with it many storms and tempests in life. We may experience lots of fear. We may feel the end is near. But the one who trusts in Him – the Way, the Truth, and the Life – is assured of safety and security! The more we are close to the Lord, the deeper would be this faith and confidence! Drowning in life is an impossibility when we resign ourselves to the complete power and providence of the Lord. The power of the Lord is with us and beneath us and waiting to bear us up! Do we trust?

2. Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these,"

A retired priest after a lifelong ministry died and went to heaven. About the same time a man who had worked his whole life as a taxicab driver died. The two of them arrived at the heavenly gates at the same time. St. Peter addressed the priest first, "Welcome father" he said, "we're glad to have you here." Then he gave the priest a clean white cotton gown and a wooded halo, and said, "Father you'll be living in a little cottage over by the train tracks. It's a bit noisy but it's clean. You'll like it." The priest was somewhat discouraged about his accommodations in heaven so he

decided to wait to see what the taxi driver would receive. St. Peter turned to the taxi driver with open arms, "Welcome we've been waiting for you. We are delighted that you are here at last." Then he gave the taxi driver a silken white gown and a halo of solid gold. "We are putting you in one of our best properties—a thirty-room mansion on a 15-acre lot of prime heavenly real estate." The taxi driver was delighted and went off to his heavenly abode. The priest decided to question St. Peter. He said "St. Peter, is there some mistake? Should I not receive a mansion too. I went to church every day, and I preached the word of God week in and week out." St. Peter replied, "Sorry father, your place in heaven is gauged by the results of your work. When you preached, people slept. But when he drove, everyone prayed!"

The place to produce results is where we live and work. If our faith does not make some impact on the ordinary things, we do day in and day out it is doubtful whether that faith is real. This is certainly the testimony of the scriptures. The great figures of the scriptures often encounter God in the midst of their work. Moses was a shepherd, and while tending the sheep he encountered God in the burning bush. When Jesus was born, the shepherds received the message of the angel while they were tending their sheep. The first apostles were fishermen and at their jobs when Christ came to call them. Matthew had a government job and met Christ while he was collecting taxes. Martha and Mary came to know and love Christ while worked in their home.

We should expect to encounter God in the midst of our work, and we should work in such a way that it is obvious to others that we are followers of Christ. After all, if we appear the same as everyone else in our day to day activities, if our faith does not somehow set us apart, it is questionable how real our faith is. So wherever we work, whether it is in an office, whether our work now is going to school, whether our work is caring for a home or driving a truck or working on an assembly line or in a bank, whatever job we have, we need to work in such a way that it manifests our Faith and that we are followers of Jesus.

Those, who follow Christ, work with integrity. Those, who follow Christ, work with compassion. Those, who follow Christ, bear witness through work. Those, who are willing to live their life of faith with integrity, with compassion, and a willingness to witness, identify themselves as true followers of Jesus. What will you do this week to make it clear to others that you are a believer? What will you do this week so that others might see God's love in the work that you do?

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, let me resign myself to Your complete power and providence. Your power which is with me and beneath me waiting to bear me up may lead to do Your work and to witness as Your believer in my life.

Jesus, I Trust In You