

The Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C 2022

Our salvation comes from faith in the Lord.

True faith is witnessed by trust and obedience to his commands. St. Paul tells us that faith is “ the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of things not seen”. Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see. If we have faith we shall trust in the promises of God and believe in the existence spiritual realities, which we are unable to see. Do you believe in life after physical death? Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead? Do you wish to live with God in the next life or with the evil one?

How do I know if I truly believe? Faith is evidenced by trust and obedience. Abraham was an example of a man of faith who left his secure prosperous life in Haran to make a long and dangerous journey with his wealth and livestock to a foreign land. Who among you, if you have a very successful business in America, would sell it and travel with all you possess to foreign and very insecure country?

What were the promises that God made to Abraham there appeared so far-fetched that they sounded impossible

God’s promise to Abraham of a son in his old age was realized when he was 100 years old and Sarah was 80 years old. God promised that his descendants, even before he had his first born son, would be numerous. He would be the father of a nation and have a land of their own and through a descendant all nations would be blessed. Through Christ, his descendant, the promise to bless all nations was fulfilled.

At the time God made these promises to Abraham, they appeared to be beyond his wildest imagination. If you are very old and did not even have a child of your own, **would you believe God?** If God told you that your descendants would be numerous and that they would become a powerful nation

would you have believed God? Abraham trusted God. Abraham had faith. Even though Abraham did not live to see the fulfillment of all of God's promises, God fulfilled them. God was faithful to all his promises to Abraham, why would we doubt his current unfulfilled promises.

The groom normally goes to the house of the bride to bring her back to the reception at his home. If she lived far away or there were last minute negotiations between the families, there could be delays compared to the expected time of arrival. Has the "delay" in Christ's return affected the preparedness of our spiritual lives? It is human nature to procrastinate: to put off for tomorrow what should be done today. What can we do to correct our tardiness? Make a list of all the things we would do if we had news that Christ would definitely return in a month. I need suggestions from the congregation.

In the longer form of the Gospel, Jesus tells us to sell our goods and give the proceeds to the poor. To whom much is given, much is expected, and to whom much more is entrusted, much more is demanded.

We are told to treat with dignity and respect those who work under our supervision, or are dependent on us for their needs, or face severe punishment if we abuse them.

Confession

Forgive enemies

Make reparations

Tell people you love them

Thank those who were kind and generous to us

Thank those who gave us good advice