

June 05, 2016

10th Sunday in Ordinary time.

His prayer was heard and the widow's son revived.

1Kings 17:17-24

Psalm 30

Gal 1:11-19

Luke 7:11-17

Elijah was at the house of a widow in Zarepath when her son grew ill and died. Elijah called to God in prayer saying: "O Lord, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child." His prayer was heard, the child revived and the woman then knew that the word of the Lord truly came from Elijah's mouth.

The psalmist is thankful to the Lord's Holy Name for being saved from enemies who would have rejoiced if he fell into the pit and was unable to recover. The momentary anger of the Lord, he says, is nothing compared to the lifetime of good will he receives. While he may weep at night, the temporary sorrow is transformed to rejoicing at the dawn and he is forever thankful to the Lord.

Paul explains to his listeners that the gospel he preaches is not of human origin since it came to him through a revelation from Jesus Christ. He once persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it in his zeal for the ancestral traditions of Judaism. But it was God who called him and revealed the Son, Jesus Christ, and this brought conversion and the grace to preach to the Gentiles.



Jesus and his disciples were accompanied by a large crowd as they entered Nain they encountered a large procession for a widow's only son who was to be buried. He felt great compassion for her and told her, "Do not weep," touched the coffin saying, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" He sat up, began to speak, and fear gripped the crowd as they exclaimed, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst."

The Father is most holy and powerful,
The Son sends us the Comforter,
The Holy spirit who gives life to our gifts.

When we read of such great healing miracles and then encounter the suffering of others we realize the helplessness in trying to do more than simply showing compassion and this can be frustrating. "You will be in my prayers," we often say, and leave it at that.

Everyone ages and experiences sickness to some degree and we eventually encounter such situations from both perspectives: looking upon others and others looking upon us. In this day of modern science and nutrition many of the illnesses in our culture can be avoided with the knowledge made available and care in planning if we have the resources and will power to discipline ourselves. If we don't have the resources then we are constrained by much of the unhealthy food found in supermarkets, and if we have the resources we still need the willpower to stay away from unhealthy habits.

And yet one can wonder, if we are Temples of the Holy Spirit, why can we fail so easily in disciplining ourselves for the better? Even then, the spiritual writer and mystic, Caryl Houselander, says "we can make a prayer of the body, knowingly offering it as a sacrifice for mankind. It can be made in aridity, weariness, dullness, boredom, pain, in temptation, in any circumstances at all, by anyone."

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