

October 16, 2016

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sacred Scripture gives Wisdom for salvation through Jesus!**

Exodus 17:8-13

Psalms 121:1-8

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Luke 18:1-8



In the first reading war is waged against Israel. As long as Moses held up the staff of God the Israelites were winning, when let down they would begin to lose. Moses assisted by Aaron and Hur, held the staff high, and the enemy was defeated.

The psalmist acknowledges the Lord as Guardian, the One who never sleeps, and guards the coming and going of the faithful, whether it is day or night.

In the second reading Paul emphasizes the need to remain faithful. The guides are trustworthy teachers and sacred scripture that are particularly useful in teaching, reproof, correction, and training in holiness. Timothy is reminded that he is charged to proclaim the word and use it to convince, reprimand, and encourage his listeners patiently.



In the Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the corrupt judge. Such a one will even respond if only for the reason of being continually hounded about injustice. God, however, is the Just One so will he not respond to our pleas of help with swift justice?

**The Father is Guardian of the Word,  
The Son is the Word;  
The Holy Spirit continually whispers guiding words.**

Moses was a man of great power and strength and yet there were times when he too needed the help of those close to him. The Psalmist looks to the Lord as his continual guardian, and Paul points to the Scriptures as the source of guidance. Jesus tells us to pray always and not lose heart because justice will come unexpectedly when we persevere. Think again of these ways to secure help: those around us, the trustworthy Scriptures, and sincere prayers. Let us lift our eyes, as the psalmist says, to the One on high.

Paul mentions that sacred scriptures are useful in enhancing our spiritual lives. *All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.* (2 Tim 3:16-17)

We are given life and light through the Word of God and patience is required to understand this. In our culture we demand quick service and easy solutions to every problem we encounter, and often find it difficult to recognize the steady, patient, always-active and creative actions of God. We look to outwards results that often prove to be superficial, whereas God transforms beneath the surface and such answers to prayers may be slow to see and understand.

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