

2025 10 5 - homily – 800 1115 600 masses Sunday week 27 OT - Hab 1 2-3 2 2-4 _ Lk 17 5-10

Focus: grow in faith

Much ink has been spilled **trying to understand the problem of evil.**

Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people. Why do good things happen to bad people? Why doesn't God intervene and set things right in this crooked world?

Our first reading has "God's answer to the problem of evil. The answer, from God himself, is two words, wait and trust." (Peter Kreeft p 500-1)

SLIDE:

Answer to evil -

Wait and trust

God is telling us today that we are in a story not a mathematical formula. A story takes time to unfold. And we are not just in any old story but a but an epic story. (Peter Kreeft p 500-1). We are part of the greatest story ever told!

"So the first answer is: WAIT. The story will unfold. "The truth will out." the truth will become an apparent. The gap between appearance and reality will eventually disappear. Have patience." (Peter Kreeft p 500-1)

"But **wait and trust requires faith.**" (Peter Kreeft p 500-1)

SLIDE:

Wait and trust

requires faith

And so that brings us to the gospel passage. In our gospel passage, **the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith.** It is good that the apostles are asking for more faith. We all should do that. However, the apostles and overestimate, even the little faith that they have.

Jesus says to his disciples and us, if your faith is as small as the smallest seed on earth, the mustard seed, you could move mountains or at least cast trees into the ocean and they would obey you. (ibid.)

Now there may be a bit of an exaggeration in Jesus' words since he is trying to make a point.

However in any case, what Jesus is telling the apostles and what Jesus is telling us today that our faith is very small. **Our faith needs to grow**

SLIDE:

Our faith needs to grow

I have often said if I believed everything that was written in the Bible, I would have no worries at all. But I worry. Some of you worry.

If we believed and followed everything in the Bible, we would show all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We would be always loving, joyful, forgiving, patient, and all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit. And there would be no immorality, impurity, hatred, discord, jealousy, rage, and selfishness

See Galatians chapter 5 in the Bible the full lists.

Unfortunately, I not only worry, but I can be impatient, I can get angry and I have many other faults.

So, like the apostles I too need to grow in faith, hope, and love. I won't ask for a show of hands on who else struggles with some of these things, but I suspect many of us do. ah.

But here's a word of encouragement if I work to grow in faith, as well as hope and love, I'm in good company.

Not just the apostles, or me, but everyone needs to grow closer to Jesus Christ, no one is perfect. A good example is St. John Paul II. He went to confession once a week and he's a saint. The closer we are to God, the

more we recognize our own sinfulness. And thus, the need to grow closer to Jesus Christ.

In other words, if you think you're fine, then you are in trouble.

If you think there's a lot you need to do to grow closer to Christ than you're on the right path. Remember God's kingdom is upside down versus the world's ways.

And as I've often said if you're not sure what to work on, just ask your wife she'll be glad to let you know where you fall short. Women I encourage you to do the same. Not married just ask a brother or sister. They'll be very happy to let you know where you fall short.

SLIDE:

Homework

Identify and work on
one weakness

It wouldn't be a good homily without some **homework**. So this week ask God and your spouse or brother or sister one weakness to work on.

And then ask God to give you the strength and courage to address your weaknesses. Fr John as well as our pastoral care office are here to help.

God bless you!