

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 4:32-35*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *1 John 5:1-6*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *John 20:19-31*

Doubting Thomas and his lack of Faith!!! most likely he was temporarily disillusioned with all that happened with the Lord & Master ; what does Our Lord look for when dealing with us human beings? He wants to see Faith in action ; In various parts of the Gospel He says to someone about to be healed, and later to others who have already been healed **GO IN PEACE, YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU** or **WHAT GREAT FAITH YOU HAVE, BE HEALED**

How is Faith defined? From the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament, the writer defines it as **FAITH IS TO BE SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE CANNOT SEE** ; then the spiritual writer Desmond Knowles says that **“FAITH IS A STRUGGLE, A CHALLENGE AND A BATTLE and THERE IS NOTHING COMFORTABLE ABOUT IT”** but the same writer goes on to give another definition of Faith as he perceives it,

“FAITH IS A BLESSING BECAUSE IT ALONE GIVES MEANING TO OUR LIVES AND IS A DRIVING FORCE TO OUR EXISTENCE ; WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE FAILS and OUR FAITH IS NEEDED, NOTHING CAN COMPENSATE FOR ITS ABSENCE”

So there we have 3 definitions of what Faith is, maybe you have your own definition of what it is ;

Have u ever imagined your life **WITHOUT** Faith?, how would u manage? Says you **“I’d manage more or less the same as those who have no Faith, and they seem to be doing alright”** maybe!!,

what seems on the outside is one thing whereas the brutal reality of what's going on INSIDE in a person's life may be completely different!

So where does that leave us as regards Faith? Faith ultimately is a gift from the Holy Spirit and like all spiritual gifts it has a purpose and must be seen to, as in, to be kept-alive-maturing-and-blossoming as time goes by ;

If you notice, at the end of this gospel reading, the Risen Christ comes out with a great Faith statement, there in front of Thomas he says **THOMAS, YOU BELIEVE BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE ME ; HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET BELIEVE ..**

In the context of these words, on this 2nd Sunday of Easter, perhaps you & I could express gratitude to the Holy Spirit for having given us the gift of Faith, a gift that is not given to everyone for some mysterious reason that I just cannot figure out ;

And in so doing to evaluate the present state of that gift of Faith in our lives ; a spiritual gift of that nature must never be taken for granted nor to be left neglected BECAUSE who knows? maybe some day when we stand before the Throne of God, each of us will be asked “.....DURING YOUR MORTAL LIFE ON EARTH, WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE GIFT OF FAITH THAT WAS FREELY GIVEN TO YOU?” and we will have to answer that for ourselves individually.....

“GOD-HOLY-SPIRIT, HELP ME TO MATURE AND GROW IN MY GIFT OF FAITH” ...

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