

July 28, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Many of us remember these lyrics to the Rolling Stones song, *You can't always get what you want, but if try sometime, you may find that you get what you need*. If we change those words to *if you pray sometime, you may find, that you get what you need*.

Jesus teaches us in the 11th chapter of Luke's Gospel how to pray: *ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you*. This is much more than asking for what you want. Jesus calls a new level of prayer. Jesus asks us to not just be persistent in our prayer, not only to trust, to believe that that somehow and some way and at some time our prayer will be answered by the God who is far beyond us, rather, we are to prayer with a whole new attitude, a different understanding than before. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to prayer, he said, *Abba or Father in heaven, hallowed be your name*. In other words, you are to start with a whole new understanding of not only who God is that God wants a deep and personal relationship with us. The prayer that Jesus teach also demands that we ask who but also who we are. Start your prayer by knowing that always and in all circumstances are God's children, what he is our Father, and he will not give you something evil when you ask for something good.

This sounds great until we face something horrible. What does it mean when we turn to God when someone is sick, we anoint the sick person with the sacrament of the sick, and they die anyway? What happened to that prayer? If God is good, if God even exists, why would the God we call our heavenly Father, give us the scorpion of death when we as of the egg of healing? This question is an important one not only to help us who believe in the God s the *Holy Spirit* to those who ask him?

First, when we pray to God as our Father, but even more for those who say that they don't believe because they prayed and they didn't get what they wanted.

One question that needs to be explored is where we place the blame for suffering, sickness and death. Suffering and death were not a part of God's original plan. We were the ones who decided to place our trust in the tempter. With that, original sin entered the world with it and suffering of everyone. God allows death out of mercy as the stopgap measure to put an end to our suffering.

When we pray *your kingdom come*, we are praying with the attitude of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, *Let this cup pass from me, but not mine will, but your will be done*. Jesus, like any human would, when facing his passion and death, asked his Father to take the cup of suffering from him and because he knew that he was the beloved Son of God, he trusted in his Father's will, that the Father allows for suffering to bring about a greater good. That is what it means that the Father will give not everything that we want, but *what we need*. What we need is to know that God is with us. That is what Jesus meant when he said the Father will give the *Holy Spirit*. The Father is the one that is over us. The Son is the one who is with us. The Holy Spirit is the one who is in us. The Holy Spirit is the source of comfort, strength and peace in the face of whatever may come. When you pray sometime you may get what you need.