

2021 June 20

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading:

First: Job 38.1-4, 8-11++, “where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” (4a)

The Psalm: 107, “He made the storm still, and waves of the sea were hushed.” (29)

Second: 2 Corinthians 5.14-17, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view.” (16a)

The Gospel: Mark 4.35-41, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (“41b)

Mystagogue

Humans, some of them, some time in their life, have fundamental questions in their mind about the foundations of the world, existence or absence of order in the universe, destiny of humanity, the meaning of human life, etc. Some care to search deep and a small section might come across with some answers, never fully satisfying. No final answers emerge because these fundamentals still remain mysteries beyond the grasp of human beings. Some scientists at least reach the conclusion that everything about the universe cannot be brought to human comprehension, and that there are some phenomena called ‘metaphysical’, that is, beyond physical verification.

Humans are not likely to exhaust all the mysteries of the universe before they cease to inhabit the earth. Most humans on the other hand go through the routines of daily life without much thought about the so-called foundational and fundamental matters. Some, however, have the presumption that everything is possible for them and that they have answers for all questions. We, the others, must sympathize with them.

In today’s scripture Job in his afflicted agitation might have for a fleeting moment reflected on his own ‘greatness’ and *the great things* he had done in life, presuming to be knowing many things, and then among his lamentations he might have unconsciously murmured against God for not *rewarding* him consistently, and for allowing afflictions in his life. His close friend Elihu, though had feelings for job’s enduring afflictions and misery, finds it wise to question his presumptions, reminding him that he is no match to God. Then God himself confronts Job with questions about the fundamentals and foundations of the world for which Job had no answer. Realizing his folly Job humbles himself before God and begs for mercy. The entire book of Job is interspersed with monologue, lamentations, dialogue and debate. God, Satan, Job, his wife and friends are involved.

This book of Job in the scriptures may be a story, history, anecdote, fiction or biography. Whatever be that, it has interesting reflections leading us to the fundamentals. We may have to search into these to understand what St. Paul says to the Corinthians today that “*if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.*” (2 Corinthians 5.17) We need the same kind of insight to understand the question of Jesus to the disciples, “*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?*” (Mark 4. 40) They were stupefied at the obedience of nature to the command, “Peace! Be still!” They did not and could not realize that Jesus was yet a Mystery for them, and maybe, to Jesus himself. How many of us truly realize that each of us is a living mystery, which is fully known only to God. We will be wise if we think about the scripture differently from the people who presume to be knowing everything. We may come near to wisdom if we realize that with our one life time we will not be grasping all the mysteries of the world.

