

10/06/2018 – Saturday – Homily

Job: 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Lk 10:17-24

When we do a job well, we are generally quite pleased with ourselves and we are happy to talk about it with others. In this morning's gospel reading, the disciples were very pleased after a successful period of mission and they could not wait to share their success with Jesus. Full of joy, they said to Jesus, 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name'. Jesus acknowledges their achievement, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven' and he recognizes the joy that it brings his disciples.

Yet, at this moment of successful mission, Jesus reminds them of something even more important that is a source of an even deeper joy. 'Rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven'. It is their relationship with God and the eternal destiny - Heaven that it promises the source of their joy. Their work will not always be successful, but their relationship with God will endure, if they want it to.

Jesus is reminding us all that our work will pass, our various successes will pass, but God's relationship with us and ours with him will not pass away. Jesus goes on in that gospel reading to state that our relationship with God is nothing less than a sharing in Jesus' own intimate relationship with God. The Father and Son know and love each other intimately, and Jesus seeks to draw us into that intimate relationship with his Father.

That is why he can declare to all of us, what he declares to his disciples at the end of the gospel reading, 'Happy are the eyes that see what you see'. It is this intimate relationship with God that is primary and the cause of our joy, not the success or otherwise of our work. It is from this relationship that our sharing in the Lord's work flows. Growth in holiness and virtue and thus the intimate relationship are the primary goals we must have in life.

Lord, help me to have confidence in Your power to overcome the evil one and his works. But more importantly, help me to continually turn my eyes to You and Heaven, deepening my relationship with the Father Son and the Holy Spirit, making holiness of life my primary goal. Jesus, I trust in You.