

3rd Sunday of Easter(B)

Did you ever have anyone tell you, “Oh don’t worry, it will all work out for the best?”

I HATE THAT!

I mean, let’s put it in perspective. What if.....

I woke up late in the morning... gotta speeding ticket while trying to hurry to work (already late... and even later after being pulled over.) And then, when I do get to work, the Boss tells me to go home. I’ve been late too many times. I’m fired.

I don’t know what to do. I’m already behind on my bills and now I don’t have a job, and I go to a friend to unload and co-miserate. I pour out my worries and woes, I’m nearly in tears and he says....

“Oh, don’t worry! It’ll all work out for the best!” NOT HELPFUL.

But in the readings for today, we see that sometimes, this can be TRUE. God can work all things for our good. Even seemingly the most dreadful, terrible things... for the ultimate greatest Good!

Let’s look.

So, it seems that in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms, it says that “the Christ would suffer” and actually be killed.” And if you remember correctly, Jesus tells the disciples as much, and what did they say? Peter responds, Oh lord, God forbid that such a thing happen to you, and Jesus calls him satan--to get behind him because he thinks as man, not as God.

You know, the thing about Prophets, is, you don’t know if they are true prophets... until their prophecy comes true. And well, it seems that this one DOES come true.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles , we hear from Peter again. This time he's preaching to the people, telling them about Jesus, whom they handed over and DENIED (Peter should know something about that, after denying Jesus himself 3 times.) and denied in Pilot's presence, when he had decided to release him. He says, "You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. (I love this next line.) The author of LIFE... You put to DEATH."

So, I guess that prophecy DID come true.

But... But, wait. If Jesus was put to death... who is this guy in the GOSPEL standing in the midst of them, saying "PEACE be with you."

A dead guy, telling me "Peace!" I'd be startled, and terrified.. and troubled TOO.

But you see.... There is MORE to the prophecy. Thus, it is written that the Christ would suffer..... And RISE from the DEAD.... On the 3rd day,.... and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in HIS name.

And THAT is exactly what Peter is doing. After he reminds 'the people' about how they killed Christ, then he says, "But God Raised Him from the dead. REPENT, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away!"

That message is STILL valid.

As St. John tells us in his letter, "Jesus Christ, the righteous one is expiated for our sins, and not for our sins only, but for those of the WHOLE World."

It's true. We should NOT sin. But, in the slight chance that we might—yeah right. Well, Thank God, we have an advocate with the Father. His very son. And if God can make the Death of His Son work for Good..... Well, then... it's probably true, that He can make the troubles of OUR lives work out for the BEST as well.

Of course, don't become lazy and take this for granted.

I WOULDN'T PUSH IT.