

The Twenty-First Sunday After Trinity Gospel Meditation

From the Holy Gospel according to St. John
Chapter 4, Verses 46 – 54
(1928 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 219 – 220)

At a distance Jesus cures the dying son of a certain royal official who would not take 'no' for an answer.



Introit Hymn;

“ O Lord, the whole world is in thy power, and there is no man that can resist thy will : for thou hast made heaven and earth, and all the wondrous things under the heavens : thou art the Lord of all things.”

(Esther; Ch. 13)

“ Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way : and walk in the law of the Lord. “ (Ps 119).

Our common bond of humanity reminds us, that whether one be a rich man, or a poor man, a ruler or one that is ruled...when a man has a sick child he is only a father. A father can be sick himself, and he doesn't worry about that very much...he's a man after all, right? But, let his young son or daughter begin to get seriously ill, and this man will look around for someone or something to hold on to.

Jesus' arrival in Galilee coincides with the sickness of the local ruler's son. This man has heard about Jesus' merciful kindness to children and to the sick. He is certain that Jesus will grant his request: "*Sir, come down, ere my child die*" he pleads to Jesus.

Our Lord, having His own reasons, at first refuses him. "*Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe,*" He tells the official. Perhaps our Lord has heard, in better days, that this man has called Him a quack healer, or perhaps, He is simply complaining about people in general who are attracted to Him more by what He can do for them, than by His inner worth?

The royal official, who is a father, is in no mood to argue with Jesus. He may have been guilty of a lack of faith, or of selfishness in the past but now his son is sick and dying, and he believes that Jesus can heal the child. He again pleads to our Lord: *Lord, come down before my son dies!* The father's grief and fear moves our Lord. Above all, He sees the man's faith...his firm conviction that Jesus will not fail him in his need. Quietly, and with a smile, our Blessed Lord says to him: "*Go thy way, thy son liveth.*"

Jesus' words are enough. The man turns away and heads for Capharnaum – and to his son. Our Lord sees the man go. He also sees into the man's mind. The man is no longer afraid, for he believes. *True faith in Christ (like love for Christ) casts out fear.*

Meanwhile, things had been happening in Capharnaum. The child was getting worse. The physicians were consulting together with growing apprehension and concern. The atmosphere of death was growing. Then, suddenly, at the seventh hour, the boy's fever eased away. He looked about, sat up, and asked for something to eat...a very good sign in a young boy! The boy was well again, just like that.

Thy Son Liveth

The rejoicing servants' thoughts are of the father. Someone must go and tell the father the great news. Off they go, and when they meet; "*Thy son liveth!*" they cry out even at a distance. Their joy is so great they can't wait to share it with the father. "When did he get better?" the father asks. "*Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him*" reply the servants. The royal official smiles. He knows that it must have been so, for "*yesterday at the seventh hour*" was our Lord's Hour.

They all hurry home, and there is much happy celebrating for a while. The father does not forget Jesus, the cause of all this joy. Already a bond of gratitude and faith is forming that will tie him and his household to Jesus for as long as they live. The son is, henceforth, a token and a sign of Christ's love for them and of the love and the gratitude they must ever have for the Lord.

Lord Jesus, the royal official is but a symbol of us all, surrounded as we are by sickness and fear, and inevitably confronted by our own death and judgment. Before we know it, we all shall meet You as our Judge. But here you still are, the merciful Healer. This son of ours...this being which we are, is sick. We have all done so little, and we have loved so imperfectly, and have been so terribly self-centered. And now *we are afraid.*

O Lord, You alone can destroy our fears. You do this by filling us with faith, by *being our faith*. Lord, come unto us before our souls die. *“The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord...Thou openest thy hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness.” (Ps. 145) “O God, my heart is ready, my heart is ready : I will sing and give praise to Thee.” (Ps 108).*

Prayer for the Day:

Come down Lord before my son dies.

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
4 Shaw Road
Raymond, Maine 04071**

Sunday Public Mass with the Office of Terce to follow: 6:30 a.m. (Fr. Kevin visits & administers Holy Communion at the Veteran's Home in Scarborough, Me. Every 3rd Sunday of the month, hence the early Mass time.

Please Note: We are now well into October, and mornings are cool in the Chapel. Please make sure to dress warmly if you plan to attend Sunday Mass.

Holy days and Saints days for the week of October 20th to the 26th, A.D. 2013 as observed at the Priory.

Sunday, October 20th**21st Sunday After Trinity**

Monday, October 21thSt. Hilarion, abbot. ...*comm. St. Ursula & comp. **Please pray for departed Ursulines.***

Tuesday, October 22th*comm. Henry, Cist. Laybrother (13th cent.) -(Perseverance in Suffering).*

Wednesday, October 23th.. *feria*

Thursday, October 24th ... St. Raphael, archangel... ***Please pray for Oblate Sr. Mary-Raphael, O/OSB.***

Friday, October 25th *comm. Sts. Chrispin & Chrispinian, Myrts. (3rd Cent.).*

Saturday, October 26th ***Saturday of the Blessed Virgin Mary***..... *Comm. St. Evaristus, Pope & Myrt.*

From the Holy Rule of St. Benedict

Chapter 7 – On Humility (continued):

“The fifth degree of humility, is that a monk or nun hide from their Abbot or Abbess none of the evil thoughts that enter their hearts or the sins that are committed in secret, but that they humbly confess them. The Scripture urges us to this when it says: ‘Reveal your way to the Lord and hope in Him’ (Ps. 37) ...and again; ‘Confess to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever.’ (Ps. 106). And the Prophet likewise says; ‘My offense I have made known to You, and my iniquities I have not covered up. I said: I will declare against myself my iniquities to the Lord, and you forgave the wickedness of my heart.’” (Ps. 118). “

Please Feel Free To Copy & Send This Meditation To Anyone You think might Benefit From It !

Annual Novena for the Departed – November 1st to 9th, 2013

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, we are called by Holy Mother Church to remember those in our lives who have gone before us. In this regard, we are blessed with one of the oldest and most praiseworthy of Catholic traditions. The Church has long recognized the ancient practice of praying for the souls of the dead as a worthy work of charity and faith.

November is a month in which the Church prays for the dead in a special manner. This tradition of remembering the dead continues here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine. While the dead are prayed for throughout the year, an urgent emphasis is placed on these prayers at this time. All unnecessary work ceases here during this nine-day period so we can focus more time for prayer intentions for the blessed dead.

Beginning on All Saint's Day, November 1st, a “Novena” of nine days of Masses and prayers is begun at St. Oswalds' of Northumbria Oratory...the monastic chapel of the Priory. These prayers are offered on behalf of the dead. Prayers will be offered according to the Medieval monastic customary on behalf of our departed brethren and for our deceased friends and benefactors. Along with these prayers, three Masses will be celebrated for the departed: on *November 1st – All Saint's Day*, *November 2nd – All Soul's Day*, and on *November 9th*, to close out the Novena period. This is for us at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory, a grace-filled time of prayer and intercession...a time in which you, too can take part.

I invite you to enroll your departed loved ones and friends in this Novenas by listing their names and either e-mailing them to us, or via “snail mail” to the Priory address; (4 Shaw Road, Raymond, Maine, 04071). Any contribution you may wish to send to the Priory will be most welcomed and gratefully appreciated, but is not a requisite to take part in this Novena. Any gifts received will go to the operating expenses of the chapel (candles, communion wafers, etc.). To assist us in getting the names you may wish to submit onto our rota in time, please be sure to get your list to us by October 31st.

As we offer our prayers of the Requiem Mass, those whom you have enrolled will solemnly be remembered this November. What better way, than through the Holy sacrifice of the Mass to beg our Lord's loving mercy and admission of the departed into His Presence forever.

“ While we have time, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them that are of the household of Faith.” (Galatians, Ch. VI, Vs. 10 ...1928 BCP – Pg. 72)

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Kevin L. LaMarre, O.S.B. +
Prior, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory

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