

Monday 8 November 2021

Today is Monday the 8 November, in the 32nd week of Ordinary time.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo sing: 'O my heart be wise when your enemies surround you. Keep praying; ask the Lord for help. For he is powerful. That is your weapon; do not lose it. Pray without ceasing, for the Lord is powerful.'

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck, and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.'

In our reading today, Jesus warns us to be on our guard lest we stumble in our faith. Can you recall a time when you've stumbled in your faith? What was this like?

Jesus also teaches about rebuking others for their offences, then forgiving them if they repent. Perhaps this honesty isn't such a regular practice these days. Do you feel at home or uncomfortable about this type of open confrontation to enable someone to grow?

Is there someone you can think of today who is stumbling, who needs correction and forgiveness. Or perhaps this is you?

As you listen again to the reading, pay attention to what God might be drawing you to...

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

At the end of our reading, the disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, increase our faith!" Imagine you are holding out your faith to the Lord in your hand now, as small as a mustard seed. Give thanks to God for the gift of your faith.

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