

19th Sunday OT Homily:

Dear brothers and sisters,

The readings of this Sunday invite to live by faith, with trust and readiness for what God is doing, even when we cannot see it yet.

The first reading takes us back to a powerful night, the night of Exodus. At that time, the Israelites were still slaves in Egypt, but God had told them that freedom was coming. He asked them to trust Him, to prepare the Passover meal, and to be ready. Even though they could not see the miracle yet, they believed. God had already prepared their rescue.

God did not rush, but He gave them time to get ready, and the people of Israel did not panic or question, they obeyed and prayed. This deep trust in God gave them peace in the middle of their fear and uncertainty.

The book of Wisdom was written much later, probably in Egypt, for the Jews who were living in a foreign culture. The writer reminded them, and reminds us today, that GOD'S PROMISES NEVER FAIL. Just as He rescued His people once, He will do it again.

The beautiful point here is how the whole community came together: they made sacrifices and agreed to follow God's law, deciding to share everything, both good times and hard times. This sense of unity made them strong and it teaches us how important it is to stick together, especially when things are tough.

Brothers and sisters,

Sometimes our own life feels like that: long nights in Egypt, uncertain, dark and full of questions. This reading helps us to remember that GOD IS FAITHFUL. Even when answers are slow to come or we feel worried, God sees us, and keeps us to remain faithful, to pray together, and to hope. Like the Israelites, we need always be ready, not with fear, but with joyful trust that God always comes to our assistance.

In the second reading, the text reminds us what faith is: it is confidence in God's promises even when we cannot see them yet. It is trust in the invisible, because of who God is.

The reading then focuses on Abraham, often called our father in faith.

Abraham obeyed God's call to leave his homeland, even though he did not know where he was going. That is what Faith really is: letting go of the familiar and stepping into the unknown, simply because God says "Go". Abraham trusted that his life was part of the big plans of God. We too are called to have the same faith, always trusting that we are all part of the big plans of God.

The amazing point is that Abraham believed God's promises that he would have many descendants, even though he and his wife Sarah were old enough and were without any child. Why? Because he considered that God who made that promise is faithful.

An important moment in this passage is to see how Abraham who was ready to offer Isaac, his only son, as a sacrifice, trusting that God could even raise the dead, if needed.

This tells us that Faith is not just about following rules and commandments. It is about a trusting relationship with God, who sometimes calls for difficult choices and courageous steps.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We often find ourselves facing situations where we cannot see the outcome of what we are going through or we cannot find any sense of what God is doing.

This reading reminds us that Faith is about taking the next step, trusting that God will be faithful, even when we cannot see the whole picture. Like Abraham and Sarah, we too are called to trust, to hope, and to keep moving forward, knowing that God accompanies us every step of the way.

In Today's Gospel, Jesus calls to readiness, not out of fear, but out of love. He reminds us that we are held tenderly by a God who knows our worries and fears, especially our anxieties about the future. Whether it is about finances, health or any other reason, Jesus says, "Do not be afraid. Your father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom."

This is a reassurance and a promise, but it comes with a call to live differently. Jesus tells us to be dressed for action and to have our lamps lit, like the servants waiting for their master's return. This means being watchful, living not as if we have all the time in the world, but as if every moment matters.

Too often we are tempted to live spiritually laidback, relaxed, thinking I will pray later or I will change tomorrow.

Readiness does not mean living fearfully watching the clock. It means focusing on heavenly things, loving God and our brothers and sisters, acting justly, showing mercy, because we believe that the kingdom of God has already come.

Jesus invites us to live with intention, not in panic, but in peace; not out of fear, but out of out of deep desire to be found ready, ready to welcome Him, not just at the end of time, but in the ordinary moments of each day.

This week, let us take one simple step of faith: offer a prayer before a decision. Forgive someone, or serve someone quietly in need. Not because we are afraid, but because we long to be found with our lamps lit, our hearts open, and our lives full of hope.

May God bless us all.