

XXI TRINITY 2019

SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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EPHESIANS 6.10 St. JOHN 4.46

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Parents don't like to see their children hurting. The government official in the Gospel heard about Jesus and how he healed people. His son was sick and near death...he raced as fast as he could to get to Jesus and ask him to heal his son.

When the man finds Jesus his expectation was Jesus would come with him right away and heal his son. Instead, Jesus looks at him and says no one will ever believe unless they see miracles and wonders.

Jesus attracted a large crowd who heard about his healing miracles. They would not have understood the miracles and wonders Jesus was talking about tell us who he is...God! God heals! Jesus heals! Lives are restored and made whole. What the people wanted was a magic show.

The desperate father isn't put off by Jesus' apparent dismissive attitude toward his cry for help. He becomes more insistent...asking Jesus to come back with him to his home immediately...or his son will die. Jesus assures the man his son will live.

All it took was Jesus' word his son would live to convince the man to return home...he didn't ask Jesus to prove himself by performing a Las Vegas magic show...he believed what Jesus told him was true.

When the man gets home, he finds his son alive and recovering. His servants tell him his son began to recover at the very moment Jesus told the man his son would live. He and his entire household believe...Jesus kept his word...he healed the boy long-distance.

The miracle in today's Gospel was the second miracle Jesus performed. The first was when he changed water into wine at the wedding feast. Both miracles took place in Cana of Galilee...in Gentile territory. Jesus doesn't discriminate and his healing power is available to everyone who needs mind, body and soul restored to wholeness.

Much of his time on earth was spent healing people, restoring people's lives. He shows great compassion for people who were in

hopeless situations...like the man in today's Gospel. Why then does he appear to be dismissive toward the cries of a desperate father for Jesus to heal his sick son who is about to die?

Jesus intended to heal the man's son all along. He wanted the man to demonstrate the value of a persistent faith...faith centered on the belief Jesus can and will help those who find themselves in desperate situations. The father's persistence in asking Jesus to heal his son was, in fact, a prayer. Our faith is based on prayer being at the center of our lives.

Sometimes when we pray we may get frustrated because we don't get an immediate answer to our prayer. The test for us is do we truly believe Jesus can help us even when everything appears hopeless and we are inclined to give up.

The man in the Gospel showed he believed Jesus actually could heal his son by coming to him, asking for his help, and being persistent in what he was asking Jesus to do for him and his son. He passed the test.

What Jesus wants from us is for us to show the same kind of Faith and determination the man showed. He doesn't want us not to give up if we don't get an immediate answer to our prayers...or if we get an answer we didn't expect. There is no such thing as a prayer that goes unanswered.

In the Epistle, Saint Paul tells us to pray on every occasion and to be persistent in our prayers. He tells us to always pray for all of God's people. We do that during the Intercessions for family and friends with specific needs. We do that during the Prayer for the Church, when we pray God will help all those who are in "trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity."

Prayer strengthens our Faith and helps keep us focused on the work God wants us to do. Through prayer, we learn to trust Jesus more and more each day as the Healer of mind, body and soul; the one who hears what we ask, and the one who is ready to take action, so our lives can be made whole again.

Come and let the healing of mind, body and soul begin now!

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