

Year C - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:5-10

If you had faith!



The apostles said to the Lord, "Make our faith stronger!"

Jesus replied: "If you had faith no bigger than a tiny mustard seed, you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up, roots and all, and to plant itself in the ocean. And it would! "If your servant comes in from ploughing or from taking care of the sheep, would you say, 'Welcome! Come on in and have something to eat'?

No, you wouldn't say that. You would say, 'Fix me something to eat. Get ready to serve me, so I can have my meal. Then later on you can eat and drink.'

"Servants don't deserve special thanks for doing what they are supposed to do. And that's how it should be with you. When you've done all you should, then say, 'We are merely servants, and we have simply done our duty.' "



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Doing your duty with love



Introduction: This message refers to the writings of Brother Lawrence who was a Carmelite brother who taught people about how to make their work a prayer to God and a gift of love for others. His little book is called "Practice of the Presence of God".

- Message:**
- Sometimes we do things that are special or a bit out of the ordinary. These might be things that make people praise us or give us a special award!
 - Question: Have you every been given an award before?
 - But these are things that don't happen to us everyday. Most days, there are things we need to do, just because they are the right thing to do. Sometimes, we say that these things are our 'duty'. A 'duty' means that it is something that is my responsibility - a task that is mine and that is expected of me.
 - Here are a couple of examples (there are discussion pictures on the following pages):
 - Picking up your toys
 - Brushing your teeth
 - Feeding your pet
 - Question: *Do you think that you should get an award or special praise for doing these things? Why? Why not?*
 - Question: *What are some of the things you do in your family or home that are your 'duty'?*
 - We can go a step further and even turn our duties into a prayer to God and a gift to others.
 - There was a special man named Brother Lawrence who taught people about how to do their work as a prayer.
 - He practiced thinking about God in his heart as he was doing his duties. He would think about how God was all around him and with him as he worked. This would help him be close to God and do his work with love for others without looking for a special thanks or reward at the end.

