

The theme for our morning's meditation is, 'Nothing is impossible for faith.' In all the three readings that were read to us, we see the key factor connecting them is faith. In the OT reading about the Exodus event, Moses pleads with Yahweh that he is not eloquent and that he is slow of speech and tongue when he is asked to confront Pharaoh. Yahweh reassures him that he will sustain him and that he will put His words in his mouth. He says, 'I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.' Moses is also asked to take the staff in his hands to perform signs and wonders. Moses is asked to take a step of faith to lead the people out from bondage which he eventually does.

In the Gospel reading Peter, James, and John were returning back to the other disciples from the mount of Transfiguration. There they saw a large crowd around them with the teachers of the law arguing with them. The problem was that a man had brought his son who was possessed by an evil spirit and had sought deliverance from the disciples. The evil spirit had robbed him of his speech and when it seized him it threw him to the ground. He used to foam at the mouth and gnash his teeth and his body used to become rigid. The father said that he had requested the disciples to drive out the evil spirit but they could not. So the situation was an impossible situation and it showed the failure of the disciples. The Greek word in fact says that they were 'incompetent.' They had proved too weak and had been defeated in a power struggle. Jesus replied to them, 'O unbelieving generation how long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.' The evil spirit immediately began to manifest and threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus gets to know that his condition had been like this from childhood. The aim of the evil spirit was to kill the boy by fire or by water. The father pleads with Jesus saying, 'If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.' 'If you can?' Jesus said. 'Everything is possible for him who believes.' Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, 'I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief.' Everything is possible for the one who believes in God. Faith is essential for the reception of divine power. The disciples' failure has already been implicitly attributed to unbelief. The effectiveness of prayer depends on the faith of the one who prays.

Faith is not a mechanical aid to the exorcist, but rather the attitude, or better the relation with God, required of all concerned if the forces of evil are to be defeated. The petitioner is a mixture of belief and unbelief like most of us. Jesus saw that a crowd was beginning to gather and therefore addressed the evil spirit and commanded the evil spirit to leave the boy and never to return again. The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked like a corpse that many said he is 'dead'. Jesus took the boy by the hand and lifted him to his feet and he stood up. He was made well. With God an impossible situation became possible through faith.

Paul writing to the Ephesians challenges us to put on the full armour of God so that we can stand against the devil's schemes. He reminds us that our struggle is not

against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Because of this Paul reminds us of putting on first and foremost the belt of truth; followed by the breastplate of righteousness; feet fitted with the gospel of peace. In addition to this, he calls us to take up the shield of faith which will extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Adding to this is the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Paul shows that by putting on this armour we will be in a position to overcome all kinds of difficult situations.

Even as we face difficult and impossible situations in our day to day life, let us remember that we have a God who can change impossible situations to possible situations. We on the other side are called to be people who will exercise faith in the name of Jesus.

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