

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 7, 2018

There seem to be many lessons that can be drawn from this week's particular readings, but one that stands out to me is just how much God desires to build kinship with us. In my own experience, one way I've always found it easiest to see God's role in my life is that when I look back on moments where I was at my lowest, that's almost always when someone special in my life entered it, whether it be various teachers and mentors, friends, or even, now about sixteen years ago, my wife. It has been through these relationships that I've often found my way back to God at times when I've struggled with my faith. And that's exactly what I gain from this week's Scripture readings.

In the first reading, from Genesis, we have one of the readings we often hear at weddings. God creates all the animals of the Earth for the lonely Adam and gives him a companion on his own level whom he can share his life in Eve. And in the Gospel, the importance of God's role in marriage is reiterated when Jesus tells the Pharisees, "What God has joined together, no human being must separate." God brings people into our lives and puts us into other people's lives. Sometimes it's just for a short time, but sometimes, as with marriage, it is a bond designed to last forever and to bring us closer to the purpose God has planned for each of us.

In the second reading, from the letter to the Hebrews, it tells us of how Jesus came down to our world, making himself "lower than the angels." He comes to our world to build a relationship with us and to share our suffering with us and in a sense, ease our suffering by taking it on Himself. It is also telling that in this passage it states: "it was fitting that he, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering." The keyword I see out of this is in calling all of us whom he came to save "children" as the Gospel goes beyond just telling the story of Jesus's discussion of divorce with the Pharisees, but extends to when Jesus's disciples were trying to give Jesus a moment to himself by keeping away those who were bringing children before him. Jesus's response is one of the most memorable Scripture passages: "Let the children come to me." Jesus has reached his hand out to us in many ways trying to build that relationship and all that is asked of us is to come to Him.

It is only through a relationship with Jesus that we can reach Heaven, but it may be through our relationships with each other that God helps us find meaning in this life and helps us to understand how to build that relationship with Him.

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