

Homily  
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
10/21/18  
Deacon Rich

My brothers and sisters, Interesting, interesting Gospel today. Think about it. think of the nerve it took for those two guys, James and John, to come up to Jesus and say, “We want you to do whatever we ask you.” That’s kind of nervy. Imagine a student going up to a teacher and saying, “I want you to give me the grade that I want.” That isn’t going to go very far. Or a kid going up to a parent and saying, “Mom or dad, I want you not to tell me what to do anymore.” It takes a lot of nerve. And these two guys had plenty of it.

You gotta wonder whether or not they were thinking of Jesus as being one of them, a human. Or did they really realize that the Jesus that they were talking to was also God? I mean it’s one thing to go up to one another and ask stupid things. We do it all the time. Amongst each other we might grin and think, “What a stupid thing to say.” And we might grin a little bit. And that happens. But to think about asking that question of *God*, well now we’ve really walked over a line.

So what were they thinking? They knew He was God because later in this same Gospel they say, “We want to sit at your right and at your left when you come into your glory.” So there’s a dichotomy going on in their heads. Some might say that they’re schizophrenic. Talking to Jesus as a human and then in the same breath talking to Him as God. Come on. Figure it our guys.

But you know the same applies to us too. We need to figure it out too. We really do. How many times have we sat down (I would hope quietly) and say to ourselves, “I don’t think God likes me.” Or, “I don’t know if God is real.” And if you say it to someone else, someone who cares about you, they’ll probably say, “Now why would you say something like that?” And more often than not, the answer will be somewhere along the lines of, “I keep asking Him for THIS, and He

never gives it to me. Either He's not there, and I'm praying to nothing or He's there, hears me, and blows me off, as if I don't count." People think like that. We really think like that sometimes.

How many times have we painted God into a corner? I would offer to we all do it and some of us more often than others. It's one thing for me to through a series of questions or statements, we set someone up to where they have no place to go with their answers. They're in a corner. We have painted them into a corner. Anything they say or do is a losing proposition for them. How often do we do that with God? How often do we ask Jesus a very specific request? "Lord, I really want that Mustang. I want it in green, and with a grey interior, and I want these accessories. Lord, that is what I want." Well, now think about that. Maybe if Jesus were to answer us like we see in the movies with a Big Booming Voice, we'd feel answered. But He doesn't do that. I can't remember hearing a very distinct voice in my head, knowing it was God.

My brothers and sisters, when God speaks to us it's not through the ears. It's through the heart. He speaks to us through the heart. And if we don't get that Mustang, within three, four, five months, a year from now, or two years from now, does that mean God doesn't love you? No. He may know that you won't be able to drive the Mustang. It's too much car for you. And in the end, you end up getting a Toyota, or a Honda, or whatever you end up getting. And it's a neat car, and it's in green, and it's got the accessories that you want. Is that God answering you? He doesn't necessarily give us exactly what we want but we all know that often He answers us with something a little different than what we asked for. Many of us use the phrase, "He closes a door, but opens a window."

That's how He speaks to us. That is love. Do we know He's God? I pray that all of us have faith to know He is God. does He love us? Just because he doesn't give you that Mustang, just because he doesn't give you that totally compliant husband, my brothers and sisters please remember one thing. We have no right to demand anything. If you

think you're in control of everything, I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but honestly, God is in control. We have choice, yes, I won't get into that discussion, but God is in control. We have no right to demand a darned thing of Him. Our life is the ultimate gift he could give us. He not only proved that, but He gave us a second fantastic gift. Right there, on the cross! What right do we have to demand of God? None. So when we pray, I'd ask that we start first, by saying to God in our prayer, "I love you." Second, "Thank you. Thank you for everything you have given me: the good and the bad in my past, what You give me today, and yes Lord I thank You for whatever You're going to give me good or bad, tomorrow. That, my brothers and sisters, is a statement of total faith, allowing Him to know that you know Who's in control. James and John hadn't figured that out. I pray that we all will.