

5th Sunday in OT-B

There is a story about a Young Man came to his teacher seeking counsel. “I broke something, Old Man.” “How badly is it broken?” “Into a million little pieces.” “I’m afraid I can’t help you.” “Why not?” “There is nothing I can do”. “Why can’t it be fixed?” “Because it’s broken beyond repair. It’s in a million little pieces.” Doesn't that sound like what Job says in chapter 7: 1-4, 6-7 in today’s first reading when his life was broken into a million little pieces? But today’s Gospel (Mark 1: 29-39), gives us the assurance and proof that nothing in our lives is beyond repair for Jesus, the healing savior!

Job is broke in every aspect you can imagine. His family is broken, health is broken, and wealth is broken. He is attacked from all sides. And finally, even his faith is tested!

From morning to evening, being the priests, I hear people’s stories! Mostly sad stories! Not that many people have happy stories these days! It is quite interesting to see how people react to tragedies! People say ‘I believe in Jesus! I know that He has performed miracle! I know he can perform miracles! But this particular problem, I dealing with now- this cancer situation, this family situation, this financial situation- that is a little too much for Jesus to handle’! Brothers and sisters, is there anything that is too much for Jesus to handle? Look at the Gospel today! Jesus came as savior of the world. The prophet Isaiah had said of Jesus that by his bruises we are healed and made whole (Isaiah 53:4). According to the gospel of Mark, Jesus begins his ministry, in the synagogue, by healing a man with an unclean spirit. From the synagogue he goes to Peter’s house and heals his mother in-law who has a fever. “That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And he cured many who were sick with

various diseases, and cast out many demons”. Then, very early in the morning he escapes to a quiet place to pray. Before he could finish his morning prayers his disciples hunt him down informing that an even larger crowd has gathered with their sick and infirm and that everyone is looking for him. Save us savior of the worlds, because by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free!!! There is nothing in our lives is beyond repair for Jesus, the healing savior!

Power of Jesus, control of Jesus, and simply Jesus **Entering Our Homes can transform it!** The presence of Jesus makes a difference. When Jesus enters, things happen. Lives are changed. Mother-in-laws are healed. The sick are cured. Demons are cast out. As it is said in today’s Gospel, the whole town came crowding around the door. This is true not only for the people of Capernaum in Jesus’ time but also for us here and now. He comes to our house as surely as he went to the house of Simon and Andrew.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806 - 1861) was one of the most prominent poets of the Victorian era. Her poetry was widely popular in both England and the United States during her lifetime. Her 1844 volume *Poems* made her one of the most popular writers in the country at the time and inspired Robert Browning to write to her, telling her how much he loved her work. Elizabeth had become an invalid and had suffered for many years, unable even to lift her head from her pillow. But then one day she was visited by Robert Browning. It was love at first sight. In just one visit, he brought her so much joy and happiness that she lifted her head. On his second visit, she sat up in bed. On the third visit, they started dating and soon got married! Love can heal us physically. No wonder, as today’s Gospel tells us, people were healed by coming into physical contact with Jesus. He was Love Incarnate... and that's what he is calling us to be today: Love made flesh; Love

personified; Love lived out. This is the first point. Love can heal our bodies. Love can heal physically.

Once in the Sunday school teacher asked the students, what they thought the best thing about God. He got three good answers. First girl said that, “God has enough love for all of us. We all love our parents, best friends and relatives, but God loves all, every human person and all creatures and the whole world. He has enough love to give them all.” Second one said, “God has enough time for all. Whoever we may be or whatever we may do, he has enough time for all of us. Third answer was, “God has enough power for all of us. Whatever may be our need He has the power to do that. He is all-powerful”

One day a small boy and his daddy were playing outside. The boy was trying to lift a heavy stone, but he couldn't budge it. His father was watching his son's efforts asked him, “Are you using all your strength?”

Exasperated the son replied, “Yes, I am.”

“No you are not,” said the father calmly. “I, your father is close to you, still you haven't asked me to help you. Don't you realize I am part of your strength.” Remember that “God has enough love for us, God has enough time for us and God has enough power for us.” Incarnation of Jesus, Emmanuel- God with us, God dwelling among us, is God entering in our day today life.

The message of this Sunday is very simple: We need to live for others as Jesus did: Jesus was a man for others, sharing what he had with others. In his life there was time for prayer, time for healing and time for reconciliation. Let us take up this challenge by sharing love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness with others. Instead of considering life as dull and boring, let us live our lives as Jesus

did, full of dynamism and zeal for the glory of God. Life messages: 1) We are called to continue Jesus' preaching mission primarily by bearing witness to Christ through our day-to-day lives, as we radiate Christ's mercy, love, forgiveness and spirit of humble service to all around us. 2) We can participate in Jesus' healing mission by praying for the sick, by visiting them, and by helping and encouraging the sick and shut-ins. But we, too, need to have our spiritual batteries recharged every day as Jesus did, by prayer.

Always remember: **If you have a question- Jesus is the answer! If you have a problem- Jesus is the solution!**