

**TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY - C - OCTOBER 2, 2016**

**ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I LOVE ABOUT GIVING A HOMILY IS THAT I  
AM ALWAYS LEARNING SOMETHING NEW.....**

**IF I'M NOT LEARNING SOMETHING NEW, YOU  
PROBABLY AREN'T LEARNING ANY THING EITHER....**

**THIS WEEK I CAME ACROSS AN EXCELLENT ON-LINE COMMENTARY  
ON TODAY'S READINGS BY A FR. ROGER VARBAN, A PASTOR,  
SCRIPTURE TEACHER AND WRITER IN BELLEVUE, ILL...**

**I LEARNED SO MUCH IN THE COMMENTARY THAT I'M GOING TO USE IT  
ALMOST IN ITS ENTIRETY - I FOUND IT VERY GOOD - AND I WANTED  
TO GIVE HIM CREDIT AT THE BEGINNING.**

**THE FIRST POINT ROGER MAKES IS THAT, ACCORDING TO MOST  
SCRIPTURE SCHOLARS, LUKE, OUR GOSPEL AUTHOR TODAY, IS THE  
FIRST AUTHOR "TO WRITE PRESUMING THAT HE AND THE MEMBERS  
OF HIS COMMUNITY WOULD DIE NATURAL DEATHS BEFORE JESUS  
RETURNED IN THE PAROUSIA"**

**OF COURSE, TODAY WE TAKE THAT ASSUMPTION PRETTY MUCH FOR  
GRANTED....**

**WE ARE NOT GOING TO SEE THE SECOND COMING IN OUR LIFETIME  
BUT JESUS' ORIGINAL DISCIPLES BELIEVED THAT JESUS WOULD BE  
RETURNING SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH/RESURRECTION IN HIS  
SECOND COMING ....**

**HOWEVER, MY THE MID-80'S WE HAVE SECOND AND THIRD**

**GENERATION CHRISTIANS AND THEY WERE COMING TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE SECOND COMING MAY WELL NOT COME DURING THEIR LIFETIME....**

**IN OTHER WORDS, THE EARLIER AUTHORS WERE IN THE BUSINESS OF TRAINING THE MEMBERS TO BE SPINTERS BUT LUKE WAS IN THE BUSINESS OF TRAINING HIS FELLOW CHRISTIANS FOR A MARATHON. SO NOW THE UNFORESEEN ELEMENT OF TIME WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE CARRYING ON OF THE MINISTRY OF JESUS....**

**CHRISTIANS WERE BEING ASKED TO BE DISCIPLES FOR MUCH LONGER THAN THE HISTORICAL JESUS HAD ORIGINALLY CARRIED ON HIS MINISTRY.**

**NOW IN OUR FIRST READING, THE PROPHET HABAKUK, WHO LIVED SOME 600 HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE CHRIST, ALSO HAD TO DEAL WITH THE SAME ISSUE OF DIVINE DELAY - YAHWEH'S REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS.**

**HABAKUK WAS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING.**

**"HOW LONG, O YAHWEH? I CRY FOR HELP BUT YOU DO NOT LISTEN! I CRY OUT TO YOU, 'VIOLENCE', BUT YOU DO NOT INTERVENE. WHY DO YOU LET ME SEE RUIN; WHY MUST I LOOK AT MISERY?"**

**GOD'S SIMPLY NOT DOING WHAT THE PROPHET PRESUMED GOD WOULD IMMEDIATELY DO.**

**THOUGH YAHWEH ASSURES HIM HE WILL NOT "DIAPPOINT," THAT'S**

**NOT VERY HELPFUL TO HABAKKUK IN THE HERE AND NOW.**

**SOUNDS A LITTLE FAMILIAR THOUGH DOESN'T IT?**

**HOWEVER, WE MAY HAVE A HUGE ADVANTAGE OF OVER BOTH  
HABAKKU AND LUKE'S COMMUNITY: OUR BELIEF IN EVOLUTION...**

**WHEN PEOPLE OF FAITH THOUGHT THE WORLD, AS THEY KNEW IT,  
CAME INTO EXISTENCE JUST AS THEY KNEW IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN  
MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO TOLERATE THE TIME IT TOOK FOR GOD  
TO CARRY OUT GOD'S PROMISES.**

**HOWEVER, SINCE THE DAYS OF DARWIN AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE  
THEOLOGY OF TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, WE ARE MORE ACCUSTOMED  
THAN OUR ANCESTORS TO THINGS HAPPENING OVER A LONG, LONG  
PERIOD OF TIME.**

**THIS WORLD AND WE HUMANS DIDN'T POP UP IN THE BLINK OF THE  
EYE....ON THE CONTRARY.....THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND MORE...**

**INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, TEILHARD WAS CONVINCED IT WAS THE  
WEAKEST - NOT THE STRONGEST - LINK IN THE EVOLUTIONARY  
CHAIN THAT EVENTUALLY EVOLVED.**

**AS WE SAY, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, THE STRONGEST DOESN'T  
HAVE THE ABILITY TO ADAPT....**

**E.G. THE DINOSAURS WHO COULD NOT ADAPT TO A POST-METEORITE  
WORLD....**

**ACCORDING TO TEILHARD, WHAT MAKES US HUMANS AND  
CHRISTIANS THE WEAKEST LINK IN THE EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN IS**

**OUR DETERMINATION TO LOVE THOSE AROUND US...**

**IN A SENSE, NOTHING WEAKENS US MORE THAN TO LOVE ANOTHER  
PERSON.....**

**TO SURVIVE WE MUCH ADAPT AND CHANGE....**

**IN OUR CASE, THE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION ONLY HAPPENS BY  
LOVING....**

**CENTURIES OF LOVING HAS EVENTUALLY HELPED US ELIMINATE  
SLAVERY, GIVE WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND REGARD ALL  
PEOPLE AS OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS - NO MATTER THEIR RACE.**

**OF COURSE, IT TOOK CENTURIES TO PULL THIS OFF -**

**TO EVOLVE TO THIS POINT....**

**AS WE KNOW, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN ON EASTER SUNDAY NIGHT...**

**WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THESE REFLECTIONS BY ROGER???**

**THIS IS MY TAKE AWAY.....**

**GOD'S TIME IS NOT OUR TIME....**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF PATIENCE....**

**I AM NOT IN CHARGE OF THE UNIVERSE...**

**EVEN THOUGH I MAY THINK AND ACT AT TIMES LIKE I AM...**

**THAT'S WHAT WE MEAN BY FAITH -**

**KNOWING THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS IN CHARGE AND TRUSTING IN  
THAT ONE.....**

**TRUSTING THAT ULTIMATELY THE ONE IN CHARGE HAS OUR BEST  
INTERESTS AT HEART**

**EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE IT SOMETIMES  
THOSE ARE DIFFICULT REALIZATIONS AREN'T THEY, FOR OUR EGO?  
BUT THAT IS SOMETHING OF WHAT FAITH IS ABOUT - SOMEONE ELSE  
IS IN CHARGE HERE -  
EVEN THOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO BE IN CONTROL....  
WE ARE, ON THE ONE HAND, AS WE HEAR IN THE GOSPEL, ONLY  
"UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS" SIMPLE DOING WHAT WE'RE "OBLIGED  
TO DO".....  
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHAT  
CHRIST SAYS LATER, ONE OF THE LAST THINGS HE SAID - SOMETHING  
OF A FINAL GIFT ALONG WITH THE LAST SUPPER..."I NO LONGER  
CALL YOU SERVANTS, BUT FRIENDS"....  
WHICH MEANS THAT THE ONE IN CHARGE WANTS TO BE OUR  
FRIEND.....HOW AMAZING IS THAT??? ARE WE READY FOR THAT?  
IT TAKES FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT DOESN'T IT??  
TO ULTIMATELY TRUST IN THAT RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS  
THE REASON WE COME TO THIS EUCHARIST TODAY AND COME  
FORWARD TO RECEIVE COMMUNION - TO RENEW THAT FRIENDSHIP,  
THAT PATIENCE, THAT CONFIDENCE AND THAT TRUST IN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ONE IN CHARGE AND EXPRESS OUR TRUST  
IN THAT FRIENDSHIP....  
WHICH GIVES US THE POWER TO SAY TO THE MULBERRY TREE, BE  
UPROOTED AND PLANTED IN THE SEA AND IT WOULD OBEY YOU....  
LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH.....PLEASE**