



3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Ps 19:8-11
1 Cor 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Monday March 16

2 Kings 5:1-15
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday March 17

Saint Patrick

Daniel 3:25, 34-43
Ps 25:4-9
Matt 18:21-35

Wednesday March 18

Deut 4:1, 5-9
Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Matt 5:17-19

Thursday March 19

Saint Joseph

2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24
or Luke 2:41-51

Friday March 20

Hosea 14:2-10
Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday March 21

Hosea 6:1-6
Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21
Luke 18:9-14

The final paragraph of the Gospel reading is very revealing. Jesus did not "trust" himself to the converts whose faith in him was based on the signs and wonders he had done. The reason he did not was not to testify about (i.e., have faith because of) human nature.

Believing because of signs is human nature. It's easier to put faith in what we can see, touch, and hear than in a God who is invisible and who usually sounds very silent.

What happens to our faith when we pray and pray for God's intervention and there are no signs indicating that we'll get what we want?

Jesus knew that his physical presence was the greatest sign of all, but it would soon be taken away. Don't we sometimes wish that Jesus would appear in front of us

and make himself audible to our human ears? We think it would make our faith stronger.

We base our faith on many signs: prayers being answered, love being evidenced, peace and happiness filling our hearts, etc. But what happens to our faith when we enter the dark desert night of trials and difficulties? Do we continue to trust God when we can no longer see or feel signs that he cares?



The kind of faith we need when faith matters most comes from a relationship of trust. Real trust. We choose to trust God for who he really is and how much he really cares, rather than on what the evidence seems to say.

To succeed in this, we need supernatural faith. When we're united to the divinity of Christ, we join ourselves to his faith. We then trust him so much that we don't need signs.

Remember this the next time you receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Not only are you consuming his body, you are also uniting yourself to his divinity. And he is uniting himself to you! If you truly believe this, of course there will be miracles, but that is not the greatest gift that he's sharing with you. What he wants to give you most of all is *his all*.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What signs convince you that God is real and that he truly cares about you. How do you feel when those signs are missing?
2. Are these feelings based on the reality of God's love or on fear?
3. Have you ever wished that Jesus would appear to you? Why?
4. Did God provide what you needed some other way?
5. How do you remind yourself that God cares during those difficult times when you can't see it or feel it?