

Sisters and Brothers, let us taste and see the goodness of the Lord!

8/8/2021

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Community Gathering will be **TODAY** at 4pm in the MSMCS gym. We are having in-person prayer meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Those not fully vaccinated are requested to wear a face covering and continue practicing social distancing.
- If you were not able to attend our last Gathering, you can listen to the audio [here](#), review the Word Gift summary [here](#), and read the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - Often the Church chooses a first reading with a connection to the Gospel. Today the first connection that came to me was the complaining of Elijah ([1 Kgs 19:4-8](#)) and the murmuring of the Jews in the Gospel ([Jn 6:41-51](#)). If we are honest, we all face temptations to murmur and complain when life doesn't happen to our ideals. It is natural and normal to want things to go well. One of the messages from the reading today encourages us to look beyond ourselves and the circumstances of life to Jesus and the mission God has entrusted each of us with.

Jesus' words were clear *"I am the bread of life...I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."* He is our light and our salvation. He is what sustains and what brings us hope and joy. Our ability to see beyond our current circumstance and always remain a people of joy, a people of hope, is what sets us apart to fulfill the mission He calls us to...Being a Community of His Delight.

God was making the same point to the prophet Elijah in the first reading. He was worn out and ready to give up, but God had a different plan. God was not finished with him yet...just as God is not finished with any of us yet. He has more for us to do. And, just as He provided sustenance to Elijah, He will continue providing ongoing sustenance to us.

I think this is the simple message for us today. God reminds us that we are His. We are the Christian Community of God's Delight, a people called to be His delight, day in and day out. We do that by looking beyond the circumstances of life and focusing our attention on Him, on His plan for us (individually and collectively) and living our calling. As I was looking for some words to capture this calling, specifically being a people of praise, a people of joy who glory in the Lord, I recalled the words of the responsorial psalm ([Ps 34:2-9](#)) so I will end this letter asking you to join me in praying it together: *"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. Glorify the LORD with me, Let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy. and your faces may not blush with shame. When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him."*

God bless,
David