

11th Sunday Ordinary Time B

- Today we're going to hear Jesus talk about faith the size of a mustard seed (teeny)
- Today we're going to hear St. Paul say Christians walk by faith, not by sight (FAITH)
- Today we're going to hear EZ prophesy to Israel (while in slavery) that God will bring them back to Israel (HOPE – that had to be rooted in FAITH)
- Here we are – NSJ – this same hope can be ours – if we have faith LET US PRAY

- EZ is prophet towards the end of Babylonian exile – he has this prophecy of hope.
- Now this is EZ 17:22, 22 verses into chapter 17 - let me tell you how v1 begins
- God begins by asking EZ to solve a riddle:

- “Son of man propose a riddle to the house of Israel - an eagle, with great wingspan and powerful, plucked the crest of a cedar and brought it to a land of merchants and set it in a city of traders – it became a vine, produced branches, set out shoots to a fertile field to bear fruit and became majestic.” **WHO IS HE SPEAKING OF?**
- The national symbol of Lebanon is the Cedar (Cedars of Lebanon – even on the flag today)
- V12 God answers the riddle – The King of Babylon came to Jerusalem and took away its King and officials and brought them to Babylon. He made a covenant with him (Jewish), binding him under an oath to be a humble kingdom, without high aspirations, to keep this covenant and so survive. **THEN COMES THIS READING** READ IT

- Notice this starts “I too will take the crest of the cedar and transplant . . .”
 - God promises he's going to take that same crest and transplant it back home
 - To slaves in Babylon EZ brings a prophecy of restoration HOPE with FAITH
 - Its not just going to be a return to their homeland – they'll be transplanted and be majestic & all will know that I am Lord
 - I bring the low high – make the dry tree bloom
 - Can't you relate to this? Here we are in captivity - This is our hope too
 - He can bring the lowly up high – so we pray, ask, and thank Him

We should have confident HOPE, rooted in FAITH

Thus we have PS 92 “Lord it is good to give thanks to you” READ IT

1st Stanza – It's good to give thanks to LORD – to proclaim your kindness at dawn & faithfulness at night

2nd Stanza – The just shall flourish like the palm tree - like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow (1st reading)

The prophecy in EZ is affirmed here in the PS – we can be transplanted and bloom HOW?

3rd Stanza - grow vigorous, sturdy, strong – even in old age – declaring the Lord is my rock.

ONLY POSSIBLE IF YOU CAN DECLARE THE LORD IS YOUR ROCK? - HOW – FAITH
BELIEVE IT

2COR 5 - “We are always courageous, for we walk by faith, not by sight”

Walking by faith put St. Paul in danger – beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, JAILED
But continued preaching the word – in faith & look at what he did! READ IT

MK4 – JC says the KOG is like a teeny tiny mustard seed – that grows into a tree

The mustard seed faith has potential – BELIEVE IT – YOU have potential

Here we are in NSJ – some came with faith – some not so much

YOU DON'T NEED MUCH – JC will start with what you have (teeny tiny)

Look at Doubting Thos St. Peter Theresa Little Flower ME

God created man – and we sinned – He didn't stop loving us (discipline)

He entered cov with Abraham, then Moses, then David, then sent prophets – JC – FAITH