

29th Week of Ordinary Time

INTRO Readings - 1st and Psalm in English 2nd and Gospel in Spanish

Do we belong to God or don't we?

Who or What is in control of your life?

In 1st reading God promises Cyrus that He will be with him

- God calls him by name – for the sake of Israel – how that happens is miraculous
 - GOD IS IN CONTROL OF CYRUS

In 2nd reading Paul writes to the Thess. - Calling to mind their faith, hope, and love in J.

- Because they were chosen
 - GOD IS IN CONTROL OF THE THESS.

In Gospel Pharisees plot to trap Jesus – they start with compliments

- But end up posing JC a trick question to trap Him
 - BUT GOD IS IN CONTROL AGAIN

SO – do we belong to God or don't we?

Who or What is in control of your life? - (we have a choice) LET US PRAY

ISAIAH Let me explain why this text is so fantastic

I have told you before that IS was the prophet at the end of the Babylonian captivity.

Israel had sinned horribly – God warns them – They don't repent

Babylonian empire comes in and crushes them – makes them slaves

Isaiah is raised up with prophecies of hope while they are still slaves – like THIS:

Cyrus would be anointed by God - Nations would be subdued before him

God will open doors before him

WHY

For the sake of Jacob my servant, Israel my chosen

God says to Cyrus “I've called you by name though you know me not”

“For I am the Lord and there is no other” GOD IS IN CONTROL

Here's the pearl:

Cyrus wasn't born yet – there was no Cyrus on the horizon

Israel was captive for 70 years and the Persian empire comes & conquers Babylon

A man named Cyrus then rules the conquered Babylonians and sets Israel free

WHO IS IN CONTROL? GOD IS IN CONTROL

So appropriately PS96 reads “Give the Lord Glory and Honor”

Sing to the Lord ... Tell His glory ... Great is the Lord ... et. al.

“Give the Lord Glory and Honor”

Then we have THESS – its the very beginning of the letter

“Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to church of Thess.” BUT WATCH

“I give thanks to God for you”

“Remembering your faith, love, and enduring hope of JC”

“Knowing brothers and sisters, how you were chosen”

WHO IS IN CONTROL? GOD IS IN CONTROL

“For our Gospel didn't come to you in word alone, but in POWER and in the HS”

- When God is in control get out of the way
- 'in power' DUNAMUS – DYNAMITE

- So when the Pharisees team up with the Herodians to trap JC its no contest

In Gospel Pharisees and Herodians try to trap JC

1. Pharisees hate Herodians (church priest versus Herod's people – church v state)
2. Pharisees don't go – they send their disciples

They start with compliments, then ask their trick question:

If JC says census tax is lawful – he alienates the people and Pharisees win

If JC says census tax is unlawful – he alienates ROME and Pharisees win

He doesn't do either one

JC says 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's – Give to God what is Gods'

We belong to God – we ARE made in His image and likeness

We live in the world – but are not of the world

We ARE His people, He IS our God

When people look at us it's HIS image & likeness they should see

So – we come to Church – not a perfect people, a forgiven people –

Because GOD IS IN CONTROL and that is GOOD NEWS