

Deacon Tony's Homily for February 8, 2015 -- 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

“I offer the Gospel free of charge.”

Just so that all know, as Paul offered the Gospel free of charge, I too, do not charge for my two cents.

Our first reading is meant to be a teaching lesson. Some say it is a lesson on why bad things happen to good people.

Job, for whom the book is named, was a very wealthy and pious man who feared God and avoided evil; blameless and upright. One day, Satan came before God, after roaming and prowling around the earth, to report to Him. And the Lord asked Satan, “Have you noticed My servant Job?” God praised Job for being upright but Satan answered, “Sure Job is upright...look at all the blessings that You have bestowed upon him. I bet that if You touch one thing of all his possessions that he would blaspheme You to Your face.”

God accepted that bet and told Satan that he could take away everything from Job except his life. Then Satan proceeded to destroy all of Job's property, including his children, and inflicted diseases upon him as well. Such a reversal of fortune is devastating to Job and he isn't even allowed peaceful sleep.

When Job's friends come around they try to convince him that his misfortune is a result from some sin that he has committed and that he needs to repent. But God and the devil both know that he has nothing to repent about.

Our reading is early in the book and it seems that Job has lost the hope of ever being happy again. Needless to say he is quite hopeless to come up with a reason for his plight. He just can't understand what his life is about. He can't understand the will of God.

Have you ever felt this way?

Jesus too had times when He must have had to get a clearer picture of the Father's will in His life.

We see that Jesus, while spreading the Gospel, always remembered the needs of those to whom He ministered. He healed the sick and cast out their demons. His words were secondary to the care that He showed the people. He was quite effective and He attracted many followers. We should keep this in mind if we are sharing the Gospel message with family (especially children) or friends.

Another example is Paul telling us that he has become “all things to all people”. We must get to know about someone who we wish to share the gospel message with. Where are they coming from? That includes our children.

Our Gospel finds Him dealing with much adulation; so much so that Simon reminds Him that “EVERYONE IS LOOKING TO YOU”

He goes off to a quiet place of SACRED SILENCE. In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus instructs His apostles to go to their PRAYER CLOSET, shut the door and listen to the Father’s direction.

Do you have a special place to be alone with God? A place where you can enjoy God’s council? If not, make a place in you home where you can find SACRED SILENCE.

Remember: “The Goodness of God means that God gives us what we need for our perfection, not what we want for our pleasure and sometimes for our destruction.”
Fulton J Sheen

