

Deacon Tony's Homily
for the
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 7th

Why do innocent people have to suffer? That is the question that we hear in numerous homilies. There have been books written about this question, that are very popular best sellers. This is the question in our first reading from Job.

God referred to Job as the most blameless and upright man on earth. So much so that God bragged about him to Satan during one of the conversations that the two had. The story goes that the heavenly beings were presented themselves to God and Satan appeared as well. God asked Satan where he had been. Satan's answer was that he was prowling around the earth seeking the ruin of souls. Does that sound familiar? Remember this as we close the Mass with the prayer to St Michael the Archangel. So, God wanted to brag about His creation, Job, the most blameless and upright man in all the earth. How he fears God and turns away from evil. Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't you put a fence around him for protection and granted him many possessions. Once you take away that he will cuss you to your face. So, God agreed to test Job in this manner.

Job had 7 son's and three daughters, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 oxen, 500 donkeys, and many servants.

In ancient times people believed that your material blessings were a sign that God was pleased with you and if you were materially poor, that God was punishing you. Job's friends tried to get him to confess his guilt.

Our first reading tells of a time when Job was getting weary. He complains that his life is a drudgery, and he lives like a slave seeking shade. He couldn't sleep at night and the night dragged on; he was restless until the dawn.

The Gospel gives the answer. Christ, always close to those who suffer; Christ, who at the end will take the cross on his shoulders – a sign of disgrace – is himself the answer. Job didn't have Jesus to depend on to see him through the dark nights.

Jesus who knows all about undeserved suffering was a man for others.

Paul knew all about having a lifesaving relationship with Jesus. How it compelled him to go out and share the GOOD NEWS. If we have the relationship, we have the story to share. Our story is the GOOD NEWS.

Our Gospel is a day in the life of Jesus.

Prayer in the early morning.

Prepared to go to the next town to share the Father's Good News.

Healing.

Preaching.

After sunset expelling demons.

All done for others.

All done for his disciples to know the way of salvation.

All done for us to know how to share the Good News in our stories.