

JANUARY 27, 2022
Thursday of the 3rd Week in OT
Mark 4: 21-25

“IN GOD WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.”

In our weaknesses, we can recognize our dependence on others and to the One who is most powerful. In our relationship with others, when we need help and assistance, we go to persons that are powerful, strong, and effective than ourselves. That gives us courage and strength to do the best of us because we know that somebody will be with us ready to support us.

Our First Reading talks about the prayer of David. David knew that the God of Israel is powerful and mighty, the One who will help him to be a great king. He recognized his own weaknesses but through God’s help and guidance, he became a good king in the eyes of God. His own weaknesses did not hinder him to continue what God of Israel instructed him to do. By his weaknesses, he became strong in and with God. So, we heard this prayer as a testimony of his acknowledgement of God’s mighty power.

“It is a prayer of praise and thanksgiving made for the promises to establish an everlasting dynasty through David. It expresses wonder that God could make such commitments to him and his descendants. But he also acknowledges that what God had pledged to him was for Israel’s sake, its purpose is the fulfilment of God’s covenanted promise to his people – and that its ultimate effect will be the honour and praise of God throughout the world now and for always. David ‘went in and sat before the Lord.’ This presumably means that he went into the tent where the ark was kept. And the ark was the symbol of God’s presence among His people. Very much as we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, the real and sacramental presence of Jesus among us. David, deeply aware of his own inadequacies (soon to be made very evident), begs God to make sure that what he has foretold will be realised. ‘Confirm for all time the prophecy you have made concerning your servant and his house – and do as you have promised.’ David is

fully aware that the fulfilment of God's promise will depend entirely on God and that he, David, is a very fragile instrument in the process. Again and again, we will see this beautiful characteristic of David – his humility and acknowledgment of his weakness. But, as Paul will point out later, it is precisely in and through our weaknesses that God's work is carried out. And David is confident because the Lord has made his solemn promise: 'I will build you a House' - [i.e. the dynasty] of your servant shall be blessed forever."¹

My sisters and brothers, like King David, we ask the Lord to strengthen us in our weaknesses and do not be discouraged when we encounter it. Let us stand firm and may the Kingdom of God continue to be built through our own cooperation feeble efforts it may be. As St. Paul said: "I can do everything in Him who gives me strength."² Indeed, it is in our weakest moments that our Lord can accomplish the most in us and through us. So, we pray for strength and may our weaknesses not be a hindrance to do good things and live the truth of the gospel and be witnesses of Christ to others.

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

² Philippians 4: 13 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society