

Jan 22 2020 Readings: no. 313, p. 260 1st Reading: 1Samuel 17.32-33, 37,
40-51 Gospel: Mark 3.1-6 OM: St. Vincent

Wednesday January 22, 2020 Year A

One of the initial stories in Scripture many of us learn is of David and Goliath. On paper this should have been no match, but faith, as it so often does, makes this battle's outcome counter-intuitive. The decisive twist in this story is that Goliath doesn't know, and can't imagine, who David has in his corner. David hasn't learnt to doubt God, and, Goliath hasn't even met God. Our adversaries in life are similarly disconnected from the majesty and protection we have in our God. We do well to remain firmly connected to the flow of grace we discover by our participation in the Sacred Mysteries.

Well, the religious police are watching Jesus very closely these days. They think they have him on a Sabbath day violation charge. They imagine, they now have all the evidence necessary to execute their plan. It's a death plan, that seeks more than to merely terminate an individual man's life. Their plan, is more an assault against hope and promise. If it were only Jesus' death, they desired, they would know that Jesus freely gives that much. No friends these characters want to destroy all people's faith in God. If Jesus cures this man with a crippled hand, he will according to them have disobeyed God Law. Like Goliath, they don't know that Jesus is the Author of the Law.

If he doesn't cure the man he will have yielded to the hardened hearts of the synagogue authorities. There's no question what Jesus will do, but do we ever find ourselves in similar decision-making scenarios. Between a rock and hard place! Remember Jesus is quite familiar with Satan's doubt inducing language. If you are the Son of Man turn these stones into bread. Be careful friends around the word "if".

Have courage to step out and challenge when injustice puts up its doubting hand? St Vincent the martyred deacon did? Can we be so bound in legalisms that we would suppress the will of God and our heart's natural inclination? A young boy was often taunted and harassed by a gang each day after school on his way to Mass. He was called "church boy" and had all kinds of insults levied at him. This went for some time until his Irish father took him aside and instructed him on how to deal with the issue. Needless-to-say, his father's tactics were less than Gospel based, but they were effective. The man is not bullied and Jesus too is not bullied by the Pharisees. Let us strive then to become people never doubting that God's love, mercy and compassion is always on the side of, justice and right?

Amen