

Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Paul insists that the love of Christ completely transforms us, mind and heart. No longer do we judge according to human standards. No longer do we meet injury with assault. No longer do we relegate people to the margins of society, or hoard the goods that others need to survive. Everything is changed in this new worldview. We understand ourselves and our world differently. Most importantly, we perceive God differently.

Job's new insights enlightened his understanding of creation, of the Creator, and of himself, a finite creature. Several of the disciples were seasoned fishermen. They knew that sea quite well. Living close to Jesus, they knew him too. Now they saw him in a different light. In both cases, faith opened their eyes. Like the disciples, we begin to realize that this man who shares in all of our human vulnerability is able to direct the power of the Creator.

We need eyes of faith to recognize the power of God at work in the events of our lives. Like Job, faith moves us from viewing God as a deity who is so distant from us that the circumstances of our lives appear to be irrelevant, to realizing that everything is ultimately in God's hands and everything follows the course on which God has set it. For our part, all we can or need do is entrust ourselves to this loving God who cares if even a sparrow falls to the ground.

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