



First Reading

Dt 6:4-13

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart.

Moses said to the people: 'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart. You shall repeat them to your children and say them over to them whether at rest in your house or walking abroad, at your lying down or at your rising; you shall fasten them on your hands as a sign and on your forehead as a circlet; you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

'When the Lord has brought you into the land which he swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that he would give you, with great and prosperous cities not of your building, houses full of good things not furnished by you, wells you did not dig, vineyards and olives you did not plant, when you have eaten these and had your fill, then take care you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You must fear the Lord your God, you must serve him, by his name you must swear.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour. **(R.)**
2. My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
3. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Gospel

Mt 17:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If you have faith, nothing is impossible for you.

A man came up to Jesus and went down on his knees before him. 'Lord,' he said, 'take pity on my son: he is a lunatic and in a wretched state; he is always falling into the fire or into the water. I took him to your disciples and they were unable to cure him.' 'Faithless and perverse generation!' Jesus said in reply 'How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' And when Jesus rebuked it the devil came out of the boy who was cured from that moment.

Then the disciples came privately to Jesus. 'Why were we unable to cast it out?' they asked. He answered, 'Because you have little faith. I tell you solemnly, if your faith were the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it would move; nothing would be impossible for you.'

Reflection - Fr John Lovell

Our First Reading today from Deuteronomy is an admonition from Moses to the Hebrews never to forget the good things God had done for them, in leading them out of slavery in Egypt, keeping them united as a people, defeating their enemies and settling them as a nation in the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

In times of hardship, times of famine, drought, war or other natural or personal disaster, many people turn to God in prayer to deliver them. But when God delivers them from crises, how often do they remember to thank Him and continue thanking Him?

Affluent societies too often ignore God and abandon faith and prayer, because life is going smoothly and they forget their need of God. So in this respect, the crosses life sends us are a blessing, for they keep us always mindful of our need of God and always connected with Him through a life of prayer.

So let's pray today we will never become so comfortable as to lose our sense of our need of God, and always give thanks for all His many blessings.