

St. Frances Cabrini - Lebanon, TN
Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A
June 25, 2017

Jer 20:10-13

Rom 5:12-15

Mt 10:26-33

Have you ever tried to explain something to someone and have it completely go over their head? You stand back and wonder “Why are they not getting this?” It is perfectly clear to you, but they just aren’t getting this. It comes from the lenses we see things. For example, I am an engineer. I see things a certain way and when I explain something technical to one who is not, I sometimes wonder why they are not getting it.

Let’s look at this with another example. We have doctors in our congregation. Do you get frustrated when you are explaining something to a patient for their health and they don’t seem to get it? Instructions for them to improve their health. Diet, exercise, stop doing a certain type of exercise. At times, it can feel like we are talking to a wall.

I am glad we had this conversation. Now, what does this have to do with our readings today? For a moment, imagine yourself as Jeremiah. This poor prophet was sent to warn the Jews of his time. They just weren’t getting it. Every time he turned around, someone was plotting to arrest him or kill him. And God kept on telling him to proceed.

Now, think of God in this situation. Jeremiah did what he was asked, but didn’t always get it. As a matter of fact, just before this reading, Jeremiah speaks of how he was duped by God. He was questioning God’s instruction; primarily due to the results, which were not good at that time. However, he kept on going, even though he had doubts.

Where else do we see this in the Bible? Just about everywhere. Where there are questions, there is doubt. Where there is doubt, there is fear. Then Jesus comes

on the scene. He tells his disciples not to fear. He tells his disciples that nothing is hidden that will not be revealed. It is a matter of trust.

Let's go back to one of the original examples. The doctors tell me to be careful, cautious not to run too much. They tell me that it may bother my back and my knees, which both have had surgeries...due to running. Do I listen? Not necessarily. Why you may ask? It is because I don't fully understand. Without understanding, it requires complete trust.

I should trust my doctor, but...Ah, there is always a but. But it may get in the way of my personal desires. My desire to run as my main means of exercise. It would be great if my doctor was the only one I didn't listen to. But...there's that but again. But he is not. God talks to me. He talks to me through the scriptures. I don't always listen. I don't always understand. I don't always trust. Am I alone here? Anyone in the congregation here in the same boat?

Now, the message for us today is that of discipleship. God calls us all to be disciples. God calls us all to be prophets...just like Jeremiah. This call can be difficult. There will be bumps in the road. Can we get discouraged? Absolutely. Will we have fear? Absolutely. Let us look to the example of Jeremiah. While it was difficult, he still had confidence in God. This was done through prayer.

Let us also look to the message of Jesus. Even if the road to discipleship is rough, God does not abandon us. He is there with us. We may not fully understand his plan. We may not fully understand his plan for us, but we must have trust in him. Jesus was a great example of this. He put full trust in the Father, even when on the cross.

Our themes for today are simple. The road to disciple is hard. Some of what makes it hard is that we don't always fully understand what we are being asked to do. This can bring on fear. But Jesus tells us not to fear. He tells us to trust in God. This trust will bring us great rewards. This trust will bring us God's graces. Trust in the Lord.