

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14
 Luke 17:5-10

Monday Oct 3

Galatians 1:6-12
 Ps 111:1b-2,7-10c
 Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday October 4 St. Francis of Assisi

Galatians 1:13-24
 Ps 139:1b-3,13-15
 Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday October 5

Galatians 2:1-2,7-14
 Ps 117:1bc,2
 Luke 11:1-4

Thursday October 6

Galatians 3:1-5
 Lk 1:69-75
 Luke 11:5-13

Friday October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

Galatians 3:7-14
 Ps 111:1b-6
 Luke 11:15-26

Saturday October 8

Galatians 3:22-29
 Ps 105:2-7
 Luke 11:27-28

This Gospel reading is disturbing. After doing a lot of hard work, the last thing we want to hear from God is: "You're an unprofitable servant."

Think of how hard you work. Whether it's at home or for a business or in ministry, we're never rewarded enough, right? Instead, we're given *more* work! At home, we try to relax after a busy day but

one of the kids or an elderly relative needs help. On the job, we're given more work because our colleagues are either too lazy or they've been laid off. In the parish, most of the work gets done by only 10 to 20% of the people.

Jesus says that our reaction to all this should be: "Lord, I'm an unworthy servant of your kingdom, because I've only done what's expected of me."

Is he implying that it's right to

be burdened with more to do when we're tired? Not at all! What he is telling us is that there's a difference between doing what's required out of mere obedience and volunteering to go the extra mile because we love and we care.

When we stop short of going the extra mile, it's usually because we have an unbalanced view of faith. Unaware that we're serving Christ in our everyday tasks, and unaware that we're serving others *with* Christ, we settle for a mediocre, half-hearted attitude. We limit our potential.

And then we're astonished that Jesus would suggest that we can command

trees to cast themselves into the sea! When was the last time you saw *that* happen?

Here's the connection between doing more than the minimum and having a supernatural faith: For both to occur, we have to know that God's love is complete and unconditional and available all the time and that from this comes his desire to serve us.

Knowing this, we're confident that he can accomplish anything he wants in us and through us. If we care like he cares, we *want* to go the extra mile with him. And then when we get hurt or tired, he restores us. Do you believe that yet?

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What's your mulberry tree? What problem is so deeply rooted that it seems immovable?
2. Who in your life is so stuck in sin that you've lost hope? Can you surprise that person with gestures of love that are unexpected and unrequested?
3. Describe examples of service that show the difference between doing our duty and doing more. How does volunteering to serve above and beyond what's expected reveal God's love?

