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| 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4 |
| 2Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 |
| Luke 17:5-10 |

**A. Text/Context**

* The gospel today has 2 parts and it tells us what should be the character or disposition a disciple must possess
* And at the first glance the 2 parts seems to be not related at all but they are really related, the 2 parts are complementary to each other
* The 1st part tells us that a disciple must have a strong faith. In fact, they tell Jesus: Lord, increase our faith
* Now how is it related to the 2nd part concerning the work of a servant to serve his master even though the servant just came home plowing the fields, the master still demands that the servant must serve him
* The gospel message is really about being faithful and a disciple at the same time
* Jesus uses the story to teach his disciples that after they have performed all the necessary obligations that are expected of them as disciples, they cannot demand of the graciousness of God
* Meaning they cannot demand that because they are disciples and they did a good job, mission is accomplished so that they will have more merits and privileges than the rest that they will demand to be rewarded or honored
* Or it can be that a disciple expects that God would be more merciful because they are really faithful in their duties and obligations as followers of Jesus
* Rather, as disciples or as faithful followers of the Lord they can only wait humbly what they will receive later
* They cannot dictate to God that He should be more gracious to them because they are good, because they are faithful
* What is meant when the apostles ask the Lord to “increase our faith” is really asking the Lord What more can we do for you Lord
* The gospel message is not to reward them because they are good but asking the Lord for more faith in order to serve the Lord even more
* As a summary in spite of all the good things we did in life as Christians, we still cannot demand on the graciousness of God
* Rather, just like the faithful servant in the gospel, we can only wait in patience for God’s blessings to be bestowed upon us

**B. Human Situation**

* In a human situation, I will cite as an example what happened to my co-teacher when I was still teaching
* Her parents left their farm in the north and lived with her in Manila because she is already working has a salary and she supports them
* It’s true that the effort of the parents to educate their children is very noble but we must not forget that it is a moral obligation and not only that
* The reason that the parents take care of their children is because they love them more than anything
* The parents cannot really demand from their children but you can always motivate them to repair the house, help in the expenses, etc.
* And also, even more important is that the children must take care of the parents especially in their difficult and senior years
* So klaro sa atong kinabuhing Kristiyano that we cannot dictate to God what we want. But we can pray, and implore or make ardent supplications that God may grant us what we ask
* We can only pray in great humility in the end that at least we have done our part, we have fulfilled our duties, we have fulfilled our obligations especially as workers, as employees, as parents, etc.
* Of course, we believe that God is very gracious, he rewards all those who labored in his vineyard
* But in the context of the gospel today, is that as a good Christian, we cannot really demand we have already done a good job and that God will compensate us. We will patiently wait and God will give what is due to us
* This gospel message is also very Franciscan. On Oct. 4 we will celebrate the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi
* What is the very popular words of Francis after fulfilling all the duties required of him?
* He said: Brothers, let us start again because until now, we have done nothing
* St. Francis is such a faithful servant always standing ready to do more for the love of God

**C. Challenge**

* So today the gospel reiterates to us what should be our dispositions before God
* That we must have a strong faith so that whatever problems that will arise in line with our work and duties will all be resolved because of the graciousness of our God
* And after that, we have to wait humbly and patiently, at his own disposal whatever he gives us
* There are times we feel that we have already exhausted all the means to solve our problems and nothing happens
* Similar to the first reading. Habakkuk is complaining: there is violence, destruction and discord everywhere but you do not intervene. Lord you are not listening
* What was the answer of the Lord? If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come. You have to wait, because the vision has its own time
* We must always remember this: God’s time is always the perfect time. Jesus himself never, never really promised that if we do good we will experience paradise
* We can only experience fragments of joy. This world that we live is a testing ground for the faith that we believe. That is why even the disciples asked the Lord to increase their faith
* And Timothy was told by Paul that he Timothy should allow himself to be guided by the Spirit
* These are really God’s interventions, brought about by the strength of our faith
* And lastly, after all the good things we did, we remain humble and disposed to say that we only do our part Lord, I am at your disposal