

What is faith?

Superstition? Mythology?

Something against reason? Something for the simple or children?

Then how do we explain some of the greatest minds in history were men and women of faith?

St Paul, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas

JP 11 Mother Theresa, Theresa of Liseaux

GK Chesterton, J R Tolkien

But is faith just belief?

Are these the same?

Most of us here have not been to China or Antarctica

But I would say most of us believe they exist

But does believing they exist have any impact on how we live our lives?

Or we want only to believe what we can prove

Reduce God to scientific proof and I will believe

So if faith and belief were the same:

Why do over 95% of Americans say they believe in God?

I would venture to guess that 100% of those that claim to be Catholic

If this is the case

Where are they today?

Why are not our churches packed every Sunday

As if it was Easter or Christmas?

Christ doesn't ask:

When I return will there be any belief on earth?

But rather: will there be any faith?

Belief in God is easy

Because belief makes no demands on us

But faith in God implies a relationship

And faith calls us to act on what we believe

Our first reading speaks of the faith of our fathers

The Night of the Passover of our fathers

The Night

The Night the Angel of the Lord took the firstborn of all the Egyptians

Man and beast

That night was a terrifying night

That Night was foretold to the Israelites by Moses

The people believed what was told them

And they put that belief into action

They acted on God's promises without proof

They sacrificed the lambs

They put the blood on their doorposts

This was an act of faith

Confident in God's mercy and justice

For Catholic Christians

Today is That Night

Sunday Mass

Holy Days of Obligation

In a very real way,

This is our Passover

We don't sacrifice lambs

We participate in the eternal sacrifice of Jesus Christ

We don't paint blood on our doorposts

But when we consume the Eucharist

We mark our souls with the Blood of Christ

If the blood of an animal would protect the Israelite nation

How much more does the Blood of Christ protect us from Satan?

Our Letter to the Hebrews also points to faith

How Abraham's belief turned to faith

When an unknown God speaks to him

Leave your land for a land you do not know

Abraham imparts on a sojourn of faith

Before this, Abraham was a rich and powerful man

He was asked to give it all up

Although he was an old man

He was promised a son

Abraham's faith brought new life

Issiac was born

Then his faith was put to a test

He was told to offer up his son

In faith, he was willing until the Angel stayed his hand

Abraham received the promise

And in faith he went forth

Convicted that the promise was trustworthy

Even though he never saw the fulfillment

For this, he is our father in faith

Our Gospel speaks of this faith

It calls us to live lives of faith

This is not an easy life

Sell what you have

It is a life of detachment from the visible

And attachment to what we believe

To act on what we believe

And to do so with confidence

Do not be afraid

Gird your loins**Prepare for battle****A battle with the world****A battle with our passions and ego*****Light your lamp*****Keep the fire for Him burning****Not an easy thing to do when we know not the day or time of his
return****There is only one guarantee****Today we have one less day to prepare than we had yesterday****We are all susceptible to think we are 9 ft tall and bulletproof****We may believe Christ will come again****But we think it will not be today****And we can get confused that all we have to be concerned about
is the 2nd coming****When Christ will return****But there will be a day each of us will face****When we come face to face with the Lord****There will be no hiding****Every word we have spoken****Every action we have done****Every action we did not do**

Everything will be seen in the light of day

In the light of faith

A famous philosopher Soren Kierkegaard says this of faith:

Faith is a passion for the impossible

Surrender to a Mystery we cannot control

Abraham had faith

It brought him to a new land

Moses and the Israelites had faith

It led to freedom from over 400 years of physical bondage

In our Gospel

Jesus asks us if we have faith

Am I willing to surrender to the impossible?

Am I willing to surrender to the Mystery?

Am I willing to trust?

Am I willing to risk everything for a God not of this world?

To a God who cannot be controlled

When I stand before Jesus

My heart wide open

Am I prepared?

Do I believe?

Has my belief turned into action?

Has it turned into faith?

Is it lived in how I vote?

How I spend my time and money

Is it lived in my workplace, in my school, in my home?

Is it reflected in how I speak?

In faith we put our trust in God

And then live out our responsibilities

In faith we wait for the Lord

Not knowing how or when he will enter our lives

In faith we are prepared to offer the ultimate sacrifice

Not knowing if it will be asked of us

In faith we live this call of Christ:

Be not afraid