

Reflection for Friday of Week 10 from Fr Euloge Kasine

Dear brothers and sisters today we are going to meditate on God in a gentle breeze. Sometimes God uses nature in order to talk to us. He uses nature in order to do justice to his children. We need to learn how to listen to people and to nature because through them God speaks and tells us the right thing to do for the establishment of justice and peace in the city. From a gentle wind, God told Elijah what to do for the well-being of the sons of Israel.

For all the times we failed to listen in order to serve and save life, we confess and say: Kyrie eleison, Kriste eleison; Kyrie eleison.

Meditation on: Kings 19: 9.11-16

God in a gentle breeze

I am always impressed by the way in which God acts in order to save. In the New Testament, we see God visiting his people in the form of a baby who cries and seeks for care and love. In the Old Testament, God visited his people in the form of a wind or a light in order to encourage or to advise. In today's first reading, God visits his servant Elijah in the form of a gentle breeze to comfort and give him hope. Elijah is in trouble and sorrow. He said to the Lord God: "I am filled with jealous zeal for the Lord of hosts, because the sons of Israel have deserted you, broken down your altars and put your prophets to the sword. I am the only one left and they want to kill me."

In the dark moment of our lives, a moment of anxiety, worries and fear of God does not come to us in a threatening form. God knows that when we are in fear and worry we need a consoling presence, a presence which does not dominate but comforts and gives hope and joy. In order to come to Elijah who was in deep sorrow and anger, the Almighty God decided not to reveal himself in the form of a mighty wind, which tears the mountains and shatters the rocks; the Almighty God decided not show himself in the form of an earthquake but he chose to reveal himself in a gentle breeze. I can imagine that it was this gentle presence which Elijah was in need of. In fact, Elijah was "the only prophet left", the only one left to speak out and defend God's rights. He was the only one left to speak loud and defend people's rights. Elijah was alone in the fight and nobody could help.

Elijah was in sorrow to find out that he was alone in the fight for God and for his people. Elijah was in deep pain when he found out that his life was in danger and nobody cared. He went to a cave and spent the night in it. It is in that solitude and fear that God of consolation came to him in the form of a gentle breeze. "What are you doing here, Elijah?", asked God.

God who knows everything takes time to ask and to listen to his servant in danger. God listens to his servant when he speaks. Elijah told God why he was in a cave. "I am the one prophet left and they want to kill me," said Elijah. God felt sorry for Elijah and told him what to do so that there may be more prophets and peacemakers.

God uses his power to do justice to his servant and his people. He said to Elijah "Go back by the same way to the wilderness of Damascus. You are to go and anoint Hazael as king of Aram. You are to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king of Israel, and to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you."

See how the Almighty, the all Powerful God uses his power. He does not dominate or lord it over his people. He collaborates; he cooperates with his people in order to establish justice and peace in the city. God does justice to his people not by violence but by dialogue. Remember the justice of God is the salvation, the well-being of all his people. The psalmist rightly says the Lord loves justice (Ps 37: 28). This is the prophecy of Isaiah: "My righteousness draws near, My salvation is on the way, and My arms will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look for Me and wait in hope for My arm" (Isaiah 51: 5). God's arm is a powerful and a tender arm. It sorts out things with gentleness and carefulness.

When you feel lonely, you feel abandoned in an isolated island, do not lose hope, cry out to God then keep quiet in order to listen to the Lord of justice and love who talks to you in your conscience and suggests peaceful means to defeat the power of evil.

When you feel marginalised and alone in a fight for justice, cry out and then listen to God who is ready to send you to people whom He himself has chosen so that you may work with them and restore peace and joy in the city.

God created us so that we may live in a community of peace and joy. A life lived alone is a prison no matter how peaceful it may seem to be. Life is beautiful in its different colours; life is beautiful and enjoyable when it is lived with others.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” asked God. God is not happy to see Elijah living in a cave isolated from his people. Therefore, he orders Elijah to go back to the city. God tells Elijah what to do in order to have more peacemakers in the city, persons who will protect people’s lives and support prophets in their fight for the cause of God and the rights of people.

We need prophets in our societies, prophets who remind us of our rights and duties. Please, let us protect our prophets. We will protect them by listening to God in the gentle breeze. Remember the threatening sound of an earthquake does not help to listen and protect.

God in a gentle breeze