

Trinity 2, 1 June 2008, Year A

Romans 1:16,17: 3:22b-28
Matthew 7:21-29

There are times in our lives when we can feel utterly overwhelmed by the difficulties that beset us. There are times when we can feel that we have lost control and that life has become chaotic. There are times when we can feel bewildered about how our lives have turned out and uncertain about how we might make any sense or progress in them.

Thursday for me
Assailed
Can't cope
Family
So much worry it does choke the best intentions, the seed

The readings for this Sunday urge us to listen to God's teaching and to do it, whether it be revealed in the Old Law given to the Jewish people, or revealed in the New Law given through Jesus. It is, we're told, in God's Law that we find the way out of chaos and bewilderment that threaten to overwhelm us.

The order of the universe: order, not control.

We are often a bit put off by the idea of law of any sort. imposed on us by external authority. law limits what we otherwise want to do. It curtails our freedom. Law threatens us with the fear of punishment to make us conform. Law demands obedience, whether we agree with it or not. For someone else's benefit.

But the image of the law of God is that it is for our benefit, not for the benefit of the people with power. The image is that the Law shows us the right way to live, to chart a way through chaos and bewilderment that beset us.

In the Gospel, dramatic illustration
quakes, rift valley, importance of foundations

Jesus calls on us to do the Law of the Father, so that we can weather the chaos and bewilderment, rather than collapsing in a heap when faced by the difficulties of life.

I rather suspect that we know the right thing to do, but we cover it up with face saving excuses and reasons why we shouldn't do it.

It's only when we're feeling drowning that we can see the lifebuoys, but when we do see them, we find the Law of God our delight rather than a burden, the source of rescue and security.

To do the 'will of the Father,' to do the Law of the Father, is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit already implanted within us, a rock on which to build the houses of our lives and the promise of an eternal home in the Kingdom of Heaven. All we have to do is stop resisting.

And we need to be kind to ourselves. We need to be compassionate with ourselves and trust in ourselves.

Well, what I feel at the moment is the need to be easy on myself. Compassion for myself, and curiously enough it is in suffering oneself that one can more easily sympathise with the trials of others.

We are not in control. It really is a matter of putting one foot in front of another in faith, trusting in God. We are bound to get things wrong because we put such a huge premium on success, on appearing competent. We are bound to get it wrong, because we don't see everything, and that is the sin of the world that Jesus takes away, but we can do our best. That is all we can do.