

DRAW NEAR

a four week preaching series during weekend Mass

THE BEST LIFE: LIVING EUCHARISTICALLY

“Take your place at the table...” Luke 17:5-10

Week One

THE GOSPEL

The apostles said to the Lord,
“Increase our faith.”

The Lord replied,

“If you have faith the size of a
mustard seed,

you would say to this mulberry tree,

‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,
and it would obey you.

“Who among you would say to your
servant

who has just come in from plowing
or tending sheep in the field,

‘Come here immediately and take
your place at table’?

Would he not rather say to him,

‘Prepare something for me to eat.

Put on your apron and wait on me
while I eat and drink.

You may eat and drink when I am
finished’?

Is he grateful to that servant
because he did what was
commanded?

So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have
been commanded,

say, ‘We are unprofitable servants;
we have done what we were obliged
to do.’”

-Luke 17:5-10

THE CHALLENGE

Do you ever feel like the faith you once had, doesn't have the power it used to? Do you ever feel like there's a disconnect between what we feel at Mass and what you experience during the rest of the week? In the face of life's many challenges, do you ever shrug your shoulders and say, “Well, I can sense God is present in the holy things we say and do at Mass, but the rest of my life is pretty unholy, pretty distant from God.” If any of the above comments ring true for you, perhaps you can relate to the apostles in the Gospel who cry out: “Lord, increase our faith!”

Many people expect to get faith in one, dramatic moment. But Jesus seems to suggest faith starts out small, and grows (like a tiny seed). Not only do some people have a hard time accepting that faith grows over time, but many don't know where to turn in order to start (or seed) their faith. The best place to begin, to quote Jesus in this Gospel story: “Come... take your place at the table!” Powerful, unshakable faith, can start with the Eucharist.

THE PREACHING

Most of us can relate to the apostles in the Gospel. “Lord, increase our faith!” That is precisely what we need in times of trouble: faith in God. Faith in God, a closeness we feel and a trust we give, offers us a path through challenging times.

It is in the Eucharist that we will develop faith in God most strongly and most decisively. Why? Because in the Eucharist, Jesus is truly present, and it is the real presence that affirms our belief in God. Once we can embrace and celebrate Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, he transforms us. When receiving the Eucharist becomes our habit, we begin to experience God present in everything. When we begin to live life Eucharistically, seeing God everywhere, we find meaning, purpose, peace, and even joy.

