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19 Tuesday

TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> WEEK of YEAR

Judges 6: 11-24

Ps 84: 9, 11-14

Matt: 19: 23-30

“If the Lord is with us, then why is it that all this is happening to us now ?” Gideon’s complaint, in today’s first reading, is a recurring complaint in the Old Testament: it’s repeated in a number of the psalms, and it’s a frequent complaint on the lips of even very holy Christian people through the ages. And maybe we’ve even said such words ourselves in times of distress or anger or frustration. When sufferings or serious problems come, or when we try to understand how the God of love and compassion can “allow” evils and disasters and tragedies to happen in our world, it’s maybe easy enough to allow ourselves to add in that little word “if” in front of a statement of faith ---- “if” there is a God, “if” God is love, “if” God cares or knows. In better moods, we know and feel that the Lord is with us, that He is our loving Father, that there is nothing conditional about His commitment to us. Let us then pray for a strengthening of this faith, so that we don’t so easily begin to say “if”. But at the same time let’s not be discouraged when we can’t understand the ways of God, when (like Job) we may even find ourselves getting angry with God in our prayers. There is no “if” about God. Despite his complaint, Gideon came to recognise that truly the Lord was with him, that he wasn’t doing to die, and that the Lord was his peace. May the always faithful Lord give firmness to our faith, and peace to all of us who turn to Him in our hearts, especially in times of trouble and doubt.

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