

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - B 2012
Job.7:1-4,6-7///1 Cor.9.16-19,22-23///Mark 1.29-39

→a while back...some years ago, there was a popular play entitled:

"Stop the World, I Want to Get Off"

→and given the way we live life these days, and the way our world is becoming a non-stop 24/7 merry-go-round of activity and movement.....

→I'm sure that many of you, (including myself) have felt exactly the same way at some time or another!!!!

→let's just stop the world, because I want to get off

→and the readings from Scripture today certainly echo this point as well

(just stop the world, its time to get off!)

→in the first reading we hear from Job lamenting human life

→lamenting his life

→he says that "human life on earth is drudgery

→Job is suffering and he doesn't know why

he is in total despair as he complains to his friends.... and it's a wonder he has any friends at all because of his negative outlook on life.

→he goes on to say that life is "like a slave" with months of emptiness, and nights of misery that never end...and he concludes by saying "I shall not see happiness again....

→for Job.....he wanted the world to stop...so he could get off

→next comes Paul...and in the second reading we find him at it once again

→Paul writes that preaching the Gospel is his duty...”an obligation that has been imposed on me...[and]...woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel...I have made myself a slave to all”

→one gets the feeling that "this task has been laid on Paul" with no way out

→and even though he doesn't admit it...perhaps for Paul ...the world should stop as well...so he can get off for a bit

→and then finally in the gospel the same scenario is in place

→we hear about Jesus.....during what appears to be an extremely busy time in his life

→people and responsibilities are pressing in upon him from every side

→he helps Simon's mother-in-law, and then what happens....the whole town gathers at the door...the whole town is coming towards him to see, and hear, and touch him

→and so [as we hear the next morning]...."he rises early, and goes off into the desert to pray....and to be alone.....

→and what happens next.....his companions track him down to tell him that everyone is looking for him

→did it ever cross your mind that perhaps even Jesus wanted to stop the world and get off for just a bit!

<PAUSE>

→and when you think about it, you and I are no different...especially in today's times...with phones and texts, email and FAXes, facebook and twitter, and everything else in between

→I am sure--all of us at some time or another---- have felt the very same way...stop the world I want to get off.....

PAUSE

→you know.....we often talk about the bus-i-ness of life before the Christmas holidays

→and granted life is more hectic at holiday time....but I have come to realize that life is always busy...its always hectic...*it really never does slow down does it!*

→instead we are a people who are always bouncing off the walls

→always busy... always involved in some activity...always on the go

→rushing to the mall...flying to the grocery store...running to the doctors...speeding to work...and ricocheting from the office, to school to family events, and to everything in between

→however, I also believe THAT just as important and just as vital and just as good AS ALL THIS BUS-I-NESS IS IN OUR LIVES

---is ALSO THE NEED TO ESCAPE

is THE DESIRE TO STOP FOR AWHILE

is THE HEALTHINESS TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE

--i.o.w...I think it is not a bad idea to sometimes...stop the world and get off for a bit

PAUSE

----[I think that] our primary job one this earth...and the purpose of our lives is to be healthy human beings

---to become the most integrated...the most aware, the most vital we can be

---and in order to do this...we need to keep life...we need to keep things.....in perspective but that's hard to do when we are bouncing...and running and moving all the time

→however as we see in the gospel today.....Jesus did exactly that...he got up early and went off to a deserted place to be alone in orderto get things back into perspective....to rest and recapture what life is all about

→and I believe [that at times] we need to do the same

PAUSE

→Jesus mastered the art of escaping from the world at times...taking time out for himself, so that he could return renewed, revitalized and refreshed

→Jesus was able to take care of all those people in his life.....because he also took time to care for himself [that's the point of the gospel reading today]

→you and I have been charged with the same task

--we need to take care of each other, but we can only do that by taking care of ourselves as well

→and I believe that is the lesson for us today

→no matter how it's done...perhaps we need to start taking some time for ourselves...and more importantly...we need to stop feeling guilty when we do

whether it's a 1/2 hour in a recliner

or a nice warm bath

---or an hour away from the kids...or a walk in the park

→stop the world...some time soon.....and get off for just a bit

→take some time for yourself...and give some time for your spouse

PAUSE

→Jesus saw the world more clearly and served it more effectively...because he mastered the art of now and then escaping from it for awhile

→might not our world, our families, our job, and our marriages and ourselves experience the same results

if now and then..... we just stopped our world....took a break...and escaped even if for just a short time

→only to return revitalized and energized refreshed and renewed...ready to once again take on life....and live it to the fullest.....

→if you ask me...that doesn't sound like too bad of an idea....