

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Our second reading from Hebrews begins with a famous verse: "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Our Scripture readings, especially the reading from Hebrews and our Gospel reading from Luke, speak to us about faith, and what it means for us.

In that reading from Hebrews, the author points to Abraham as an example of a person of faith. Abraham believed in God's promise that his descendants would be as "numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore." And then, the author writes, "All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland...a better homeland, a heavenly one." Faith tells us where our home really is - heaven. You could say that faith is our spiritual GPS. And not only does our faith tell us where our home is, it shows us how to get there.

I do not have GPS in my car, but I have ridden with people who do. There are times when I've been with a driver who decided not to follow the directions that the GPS provided. Sometimes this was done with good reason, because of traffic or road construction or something else. When it comes to our lives, though, sometimes we decide to go in a different direction from what our faith tells us, and we always wind up lost.

Sometimes we let fear direct us, and we get lost. But just as He tells His disciples at the beginning of our Gospel reading, Jesus keeps telling us not to be afraid, but to trust in Him. Sometimes we let despair be our guide, and we get lost. When people lose hope, life becomes cheap, and people's lives are too often destroyed.

But if we let our faith guide us, we will be led to "an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy." We will have a proper attitude, the attitude of a faithful servant. Like Abraham, who was called to leave his homeland, we are called to go where God leads us. We may not be familiar with where we're headed, but our faith tells us to trust in the One who loves us so much that the Son of God died for our sins and rose from the dead to give us everlasting life! Like the faithful servants in Jesus' parable, we are called to be about what God wants us to do, ready for the time when Jesus comes again. We're not to be like the unfaithful steward, who thinks he can take advantage of his master's absence, and beat his fellow servants and get drunk. We cannot let greed or lust direct us, either.

Now there are times when we go astray. There are times when our fears and anxieties and selfishness get the better of us, and we forget the love God has for us in Jesus Christ, and lose sight of that "Inexhaustible treasure." But just as a GPS in the car continues to give directions even though the driver has chosen a different route, so does God continue to speak to us, and call us to Himself. And if there are times when the directions don't seem to be all that clear, we need to keep driving. We need to continue to serve the best we can until we can hear clearly where God wants us to go. Our faith tells us that God will not lead us to destruction, but to home with Him forever.

May God continue to bless us all, and may we go where our faith leads us.

In Christ,