

**First Reading: Job 38:4-18**

<sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’? <sup>12</sup>Have you

commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, <sup>13</sup>that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? <sup>14</sup>It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. <sup>15</sup>From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. <sup>16</sup>Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? <sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? <sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.”

Job is one of the oldest books in the Bible. It is amazing in how the dialogues of Job and his friends try to explain reality. That God punishes wrong doers and God rewards those who are righteous, or do the right thing. But here in this book, God declares to Satan that Job is a righteous man. But Satan asks God if he could test Job's righteousness to see if it is real. He obeys God only because God has blessed him so much. So Job suffers horribly even though he has not done any great sin. Job wants to know why God allowed this all to happen, in Job 38 God gives Job an answer!

1. What does God ask of Job in verses 5-11? What is God's point to Job?

What do we learn about asking God questions?

2. What are the huge questions that God asks of Job in verses 11-18?

3. Is Job's righteousness based on his performance or his trust in God? Even Job's wife told him to curse God and die. But he did not. Job has doubts about God's will but does he ever reject God?

**Second Reading: Romans 10:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. <sup>5</sup>Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because,

if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup>How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed

the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup>So faith

comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

In Romans, Paul is all about the gift of faith, being in Christ, not by works but by the gift of righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In this passage we hear those words "faith comes by hearing that the righteousness of Christ is given through the hearing of the word".

1. What are the two different kinds of righteousness that Paul speak of in verses 1-4?
2. What does verse four mean?
3. According to Paul, the faith of righteousness in Christ is shown by what? verses 8-10
4. What is our "transaction" with God in verse 13? How do we appropriate our faith?
5. What do you think it means to obey the Gospel?

### **Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33**

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,

"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The 14th chapter begins by talking of the death and execution of John the Baptist. At this, Jesus and the disciples withdraw from Galilee. Jesus comforts the crowds first with the feeding of the 5,000. They continue the withdrawal by crossing the sea to Gennesaret. There is a time to grieve the death of John the Baptist and for them to process their own death for the Lord's kingdom. Jesus does not slow or stop doing the will of God, but increases the area to where the Gospel goes.

1. Why do you suppose Jesus wants to be alone? Why does He want the disciples to travel without Him?
2. Why do you suppose Jesus comes to them by walking on the water?
3. What does it mean to "Take heart"?
4. How great was Peter's faith that he asked Jesus to command him to come out on the water?
5. How important are verses 32-33 in this reading? Why?