

8th Sunday in the Ordinary Time of the Year
(Isaiah 49.16-15, 1 Corinthians 4.1-5, Matthew 6.24-34)
THEME: You Are Not Alone. Your God Is With You.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ: As children of God, we have gathered again in this house of God to worship and present our prayers of thanks and petitions to God.

As human beings, at certain moments and situations in our lives we feel lonely, unprotected, or even abandoned. Sometimes we are faced with certain trials and challenges in various areas of our lives that make us question the reason for our existence or even question God, seeking for answers and solutions to our problems and situations.

But today, through the readings from the bible, our God is assuring us of His constant care, love, concern and protection. The prophet of God, Isaiah, through the First reading today reassures us again of God's stand in our lives when he states, "Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you." (Isaiah 49.14-15)

By this, God wants us to understand that we are precious to Him: That as children of God, He is always with us to guide, provide, protect and nourish us with His blessings. We have to realize that most of the time what we experience in our various situations, are things that are bound to happen in our lives as long as we are human beings. As a farmer, you should be prepared to witness favourable harvest and sometimes as a result of changes in weather conditions a not so good harvest. As a business person, you should be prepared to welcome the ups and downs in business. As a teacher, one should be prepared to welcome the challenging behaviours of students and some times complaints from parents and guardians. As a married couple, be prepared to witness the challenges and goodies that comes with marriage, the same with every other vocation in this world. The same way, if you decide to live in the North Pole, be prepared to welcome the cold and the snow that comes with it. The same way if you are over forty years old, be prepared to welcome eye problems, hip, knee, shoulder, arthritis and other sicknesses that comes with old age.

But in all these, Jesus wants us to understand that our God is still with us. These are natural things we have to come across as human beings. Jesus is telling us again today, that in moments of trails and loneliness in our lives, let us always remember that we are not alone, for our God is with us. Always ask yourself if God can take care of the animals in the bush, the birds in the air, the trees and provide for them, why not me, as child of God. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6.24-34)