

In the comic strip, *Calvin and Hobbes*, cartoonist Bill Watterson presents the humorous antics of a precocious and adventurous six-year-old boy and his constant companion - a stuffed toy tiger.

In many of the vignettes, Calvin's vivid imagination takes over to such an extent that he forgets where he is - often imagining himself on a distant planet fighting grotesque aliens. Humorously, when he comes back to himself, the offensive space creatures end up being either his parents or his teacher.

In today's first reading, we hear a fond recollection of the life of King David - pretty much what we have been hearing over the past two weeks in our Old Testament reading. Or at least one hopes it is a fond recollection - after all, who wouldn't want to be compared to "the choice fat of the sacred offerings"?

And in the Gospel, we hear the panic of King Herod who upon learning of the growing fame of Jesus among the people, imagines that it is John the Baptist - returned from the grave to exact revenge on the unjust king.

Often we can end up living in our own imaginations - whether recollecting on an imaged past - a non-existent history of the "good old days;" or else we can fall into the clutches of an over-active imagination ... imagining disasters or situations that may never come to pass.

Throughout the Gospel, we hear that "now is the acceptable time," and that "now is the day of salvation."

There is great merit in living in the present moment - recognizing that where we find ourselves today ... now ... is where God has appointed us to be. It is far better to look for the blessing in our current situation ... than it is to live in an imaginary past or in dread of a non-existent future.

Let us re-commit ourselves to Christ ... right now ... today and every day ... and recognize the blessings and action of God in our life ... wherever we may find ourselves.