

I remember that as a kid when I first heard this Gospel, I couldn't figure out why the weather man always seemed to have a problem.

After all, it's in the Bible ... and Jesus says so ...

I dunno, maybe it's easier to predict weather when you're the Son of God and are omniscient ... or maybe the complex computer model is simpler when you're surrounded by desert and have the Mediterranean Sea on the east side. Maybe it's El Niño or El Niña in this hemisphere.

Whatever it is, Jesus isn't giving advice to weather forecasters. Rather, he's pointing out that when people are "in tune" with things, they usually recognize the rhythm of life.

And so it is even with sin. We know that if we place ourselves in the near occasion of sin ... the wrong company, the wrong TV show, the wrong web page ... that we open ourselves up to at least temptation ... and perhaps eventually sin.

Which is what St. Paul speaks about ... his struggle ... with being an Apostle, and knowing God's Will and God's Word ... yet still being subject to personal sin.

In this world ... it seems rare that someone is given the grace not to sin.

However, we must not fall into despair. As St. Paul says, first:

*Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me ... ?*

And of course the answer to his cry is: "*Jesus Christ Our Lord.*"

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the grace to persevere against temptation and sin. Let us remember that we have someone who will "*deliver*" us from our weaknesses ... someone who will "save" us ... and that Person is Jesus Christ. May we ... with knowledge of our Salvation in Christ ... giving thanks to God for this great gift ... as we strive to grow daily in virtue and holiness.