

“That is why the town is called Zoar.”

‘Zoar’ is a Hebrew word that means ‘insignificant’ or ‘littleness’ – it was the town that was so small and so insignificant that it was overlooked by God when destroying the cities of that region for their sinfulness.

St. Therese of Lisieux spoke of a “little way.” That is, St. Therese desired to live her life out for love of God in each and every small event of her life. She was intensely aware of the Love of God, and overcame a fear of God’s justice by immersing herself in His Love and Mercy.

She wrote, “What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love.”

She lived and taught a spirituality of attending to everyone and everything well and with love. She believed that just as a child becomes enamored with what is before her, we should also have a childlike focus and totally attentive love. Therese’s spirituality is of doing the ordinary, with extraordinary love.

This sort of life of holiness is within the reach of everyone.

Today, in the Gospel, we hear about Jesus and the disciples out in a boat in the midst of a huge storm. The disciples are panicking, but Jesus is asleep. In their panic, the disciples wake Jesus, who calms the storm after admonishing them for their lack of Faith.

Often, our daily lives can seem to be a storm of events and issues that confound us and stir us up within. Yet it is more important that we recognize that Jesus is with us, and that God loves us.

So long as we are “with Jesus” no matter how strong the storm may seem, we are safe. We are called to a childlike trust in God that often times means we must “wait on the Lord.”

God’s ways aren’t our ways, nor is God’s timing our timing. We must persevere in our own small and insignificant routine of life, and recognize God in the little things. Only when we “become like a little child,” that is trusting and in awe of God’s Love and Mercy, can we become more aware of the beauty of all things, when we are living close to Jesus.

Let us resolve to allow God to be ‘Father’ to us, and let His Love and Mercy embrace and hold us as his beloved children. And then, as daughters and sons of God the Father, adopted into the Family of the Trinity in Christ, we can live out the mission we are called to in the Power of the Holy Spirit.