

Year B* Easter 5* 5/14/06
Rick Lawler* HELP!*

I heard this prayer while on retreat earlier this week. I've been praying it ever since.

O God, thank-you for all you have done for me today.
I have been able to stay close to you so far. I have followed your will as best I can discern it. I have not reacted to anyone out of anger, impatience, or fear. But I'm going to get out of bed in a few minutes. . . and I could really use your help.
Amen.

I could really use your help today. From the moment we awake we are utterly dependent upon God. We can't make it to the bathroom without breaking two or three of the Ten Commandments and committing five of the Seven Deadly Sins in one way or another.

God, I really need your help today.

The difficult news is, we need help and lots of it. Just looking at the scriptures this morning. . .

"Whoever does not love abides in death." I know about that.

"Whoever does not love me does not keep my word." Been there, done that.

"All who hate a brother or sister are murderers." Yup! I can do that.

And I can do all that before I reach the bathroom in the morning. I need help and lots of it. The degree of help I need is important to realize. Because the depth to which I realize my need is the depth I am willing to go into God. My need sends me into God. It sends me into prayer. Without a deep sense of my dependence upon God for all things I launch myself into a day defenseless against all the things inside me and around me that want to become God in my life.

And the things that want to be God in my life are Legion.

My own wants and compulsions.
Some politician's agenda for me.
Madison Avenue.
Even good things like my Church and my family.

Everyone has a plan for us. If we do not become wholly dependent upon God for help someone or something else will take God's place.

Our deep need for God, that's the difficult news.

The Good News is that help is here and more help is on the way.

We have God the Father. The source of our very being, the fountain of life and love, is ours.

We have the Son of God, Jesus, the powerful Redeemer, the defeater of Satan and evil, the liberator of those in prison, the One through whom death itself is turned into resurrection.

And today we hear the Father is sending the Spirit. That means the Father is sending us Good Energy, Sacred Power, Joyful Force.

And that's what we need. Energy. Power. Force. . .

To live the spiritual life.

To break free from the cravings that bind us.

To reach out in mission and service to those around us.

To forgive each other, make amends for our mistakes, and move on.

To stay creative and engaged with our brothers and sisters.

To bust out of the ruts and wallows we get stuck in.

To see what it is God is calling us to next. And then to do it.

Good Energy, Sacred Power, Joyful Force.

This is what the Father is giving us today. That is what Jesus embodied and is now calling the Church to embody.

And Jesus is the key, when he says, "**The Father is greater than I.**"

The humility of Jesus. Jesus sees the Father is greater than he and that opens to door to the Holy Spirit. The humility of Jesus opens the

door for us too.

Something, Someone, is greater than I.

"I" is small.

"I" is weak.

"I" is tossed to and fro by wants and fears .

"I" is constantly at war with the world.

I can't make it to the bathroom on my own.

But the Father is greater than I.

And the Father is sending the great and good, Holy Spirit. Just in time.

Because I'm just about to get out of bed, God, and I could sure use your help.