

“... ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea’...”

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Once upon a time, on a Sat. afternoon/evening/Sunday morning just like this, a priest said to his congregation, “**Let’s play a game.**” So-o, I say to you: “**Let’s play a game.**”

In your great imagination, suppose you got into a time machine, traveled back to 1776, and that you took along with you a copy of today’s newspaper.

Now, suppose some of the people from that time tried to read your newspaper. How much of it do you think they would understand?

Most experts say that they wouldn’t understand enough to make sense of it. It would be like reading a foreign language. Consider some of the words that would ‘stump’ the people of 1776:

Automobile, airplane, astronaut, expressway, parkway, supermarket, air conditioning, stock market, baseball bat, surfboard, radio, television, spaceship, moonwalk, long-range nuclear missile, ICBM-**Intercontinental ballistic missile**, LASER--light **amplification by stimulated emission of radiation**, space suit, solar panel, nuclear fission/fusion, cell phone, Smart Phone, Android, CD, DVD, Blue Ray, 3-D, ipad, rom/megabytes/gigabytes, nanosecond, information highway, email, snail mail, text message, instant message, instant gram, tweet, cyberspace, ‘911,’ Taliban, Issis, drone. *The list goes on & on & on.*

Suppose they asked you what ‘television’ is. You’d say it’s a way of seeing something as far away as China while it’s actually happening, in real time, in that country.

Suppose they asked you what a ‘long-range nuclear missile’ is, an ‘ICBM.’ You’d say it’s a way of firing a very special, huge bullet in the U. S., capable of destroying any city you wished in Russia -- within about 20 minutes.

Suppose they asked you what a ‘moonwalk’ is. You’d say it’s someone on earth taking a spaceship to the moon and walking around on its surface.

What do you think those people would say to you?

If those people had any sense at all, they’d say you were crazy, that you were out of your mind! For **anybody with any sense at all knows** you can’t see things in China while it happening as you sit in your living room in Finleyville, Elrayma, South Park, Bethel Park, or anywhere else in Pgh!

Anybody with any sense at all knows that a bullet fired in the U.S., no matter how big or special, can’t wipe out the entire city of Moscow, regardless of the time it took.

Anybody with any sense at all knows you can’t fly to the moon like a bird in a horse & buggy, get out, & walk around.

The point of our game is to show that what **the people of one century** consider senseless and impossible, the **people of another century** consider ‘matter-of-fact’ and commonplace.

The point of the game is to show that what **the people of one century** never dreamed of, **people of another century** consider ordinary.

There’s a very important lesson here.

What, exactly, is that very important lesson you ask.

Well, I am glad you asked that question!

It is this: if we approach life with the attitude that something is **IM-possible**, we’ll probably fail.

BUT, if we approach life with the attitude that something **IS possible**, we’ll probably succeed.

For... the people of one century are very poor judges of people in another century!

NOW, **let’s play another game**, this time... on ourselves! I mean, let’s suppose someone from the year 3,016 arrived on the planet Earth in a time machine with a newspaper of **his/her** day.

Suppose it contained **NO stories** of violence, poverty, wars, terrorism –**anywhere** in his world.

Suppose his paper contained only stories of love, prosperity, peace, and friendship.

What would you say?

Well, if you **had any sense at all, you would know that** such a world was impossible. Why?

Because, **anyone with any sense at all knows that** anywhere there are people, there's bound to be violence, jealousy, and hostility.

Anybody with any sense at all knows that where there are people, there will be rich people & poor people.

Anyone with any sense at all knows that where there are nations, there will be violence & war.

This brings yet another very important lesson. And it is this:

Peace on earth **IS** possible. Love among people **IS** possible. Harmony among nations **IS** possible!

And the reason these things are **possible** ...is that Jesus came among us & taught us how to live.

The reason they are **possible** is that Jesus said they were possible.

That's what he meant when he taught us how to pray –the Lord's Prayer...

“Thy kingdom come; **thy** will be done –on earth **as it is** in heaven.”

The reason they are possible is that Jesus **died** to make them possible.

The reason they are possible is that Jesus **rose** to make them possible, assuring us he was the son of God.

That's what Jesus is trying to tell us in today's Gospel, which I/deacon just read to you from St. Luke:

It's just this.

**“If you have faith... the size of a mustard seed... you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea' ...and it would obey you.”**

The good news of today's Gospel is that, **through faith**, the power of God is at our disposal.

As a result, nothing is any longer **IM-possible**

--not even a world where there is no more war,

--not even a world where there is no more poverty,

--not even a world where there is no more jealousy, envy, or hatred!

Remember... what the people of one century consider **impossible**, the people of another century consider ...**ordinary, commonplace**.

Remember... the people of one century are very poor judges of people... of another century.

It's just a matter of vision, of attitude, of time, and ultimately... a matter of faith.

It's just a matter of believing Jesus when he says:

**“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,'
and it would obey you.”**

May that very same, **true** God, our dear Abba, bless you:
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.