

Sermon for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity 2020.

Job 42:1-6. Revelation 15:2-4. Psalm 33:8-12.
Luke 5:1-11.

The Collect: Lord, who never fails to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love: keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.

Luke 5:8 ‘And seeing, Simon Peter fell at Jesus’ knees saying: Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord.’

Have you ever dropped to the floor (intentionally) as your legs have gone from under you because of your sudden awareness of your own sinfulness?

Yes?... just look in front of your downcast eyes. What do you see? Jesus’s hands inviting you to hold on as He brings you towards his knees to support you in a Fatherly embrace of love. When your strength returns He will help you to stand up. As Job says: ‘I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.’

No?... Then, brother, sister, you just haven’t got it! St John the Divine, in the Book of Revelation (15:2-4) asks the rhetorical question: ‘Who shall not fear and glorify thy name, O Lord? For thou alone art holy.’ Those who make it as far as the ‘Beatific Vision’ (the sight of God in heaven) have understood in their heart, and seen with their eyes, that our only rightful posture in the presence of God, is on our knees. We are put there by the weight of realisation that we thought we knew better than Him about every aspect of life, reality, and the universe. What utter hubris and folly! Thank God that when we are faced with the power of real divinity we collapse. But, it is a very good place to be. The only way is up!...

‘And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid..”’ (Luke 5:10)

To God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost be glory now and forever. Amen.