

FATHER MARK SCHULTE HOMILY
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
February 7, 2021
“Real Security”

Most of us are familiar with the Book of Job in sacred scripture. Our first passage today is taken from this very important book, which is placed among other books of “Wisdom” in the Bible.

The Book of Job contains many messages for the reader but, in general, it tells the story of a good and righteous man who was also very wealthy. Much of his good fortune was due to his faithfulness to God – a faithfulness that he maintained even through terrible hardship.

From the perspective of material security, he had it all, but then through a series of misfortunes, he lost it. But, because of his faithfulness, God restored everything back to him and more.

A sense of security is very important to most people and many people do all that they can to establish security, especially material security. The kind of security that the world has to offer, i.e., we are reminded by the marketing media that we should establish financial security:

- Through a savings plan.
 - A 401K.
 - Investing in the stock market.
 - Various kinds of retirement plans.
 - Health care programs, etc.
- Some people seek security in the political arena – working to place certain people in office that favor their point of view.
 - Some people seek security in science and technology (computers, medicine, vaccines, cell phone).
 - Some seek security outside of the established systems:
 - They relocate to a more remote location and strive to establish methods of self-sufficiency.
 - Joining communities of like-minded people.
 - Grow their own food.
 - Live “off the grid” so to speak.

Security is very important to people and different people pursue what they understand as security in different ways.

Getting back to our friend Job:

- Job had it all from a wealth and security perspective, but he understood that his greatest form of security was his faith in God – and his trust in God’s purpose for him.

Some people put all their “security eggs” in one basket – the world’s basket. And then when those forms of security are gone, they don’t know what to do or where to turn (finance, science, politics).

The best security plan (retirement plan) is God’s plan for man. For most people, it looks something like this:

- Marry a good man (or woman).
- Live your married life as God intends you to.
- Stay faithful to your spouse.
- Raise all the children God intends for you to have.
- Work hard and provide for your own.
- Mind your own business (coffee shop gatherings ok from time to time.)
- You teach your children to do the same.

Too many have contracepted their children away – and then when they grow old and the various forms of security that the world has to offer are gone, they have no one to fall back on.

- Your children (all your children) are your greatest security asset, not finance, politics, science.
- Your generosity in accepting God’s children pays dividends far beyond any bank statement or healthcare program.

Remember Job:

- Faith and trust in God is your best retirement plan.
- Job had 10 children.

Always advise your children against using contraceptives that can destroy their best security asset and eventually destroy their soul.