

Homily by Fr. Anthony Davis

“For nothing will be impossible with God.”

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent (Yr B)

II Sam. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Today’s readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time. The Gospel stresses the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation. The focus of today’s liturgy is the Davidic covenant, the promise of a throne that will last forever, which appears in the First reading in the Responsorial Psalm, and in the Gospel, where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that *“the Lord God will give (her son) the throne of David his father...and of his kingdom there will be no end.”* “...FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD...”

Thus, today’s Scripture texts describe God’s promise to David and its fulfillment in Jesus, the Son of David. They also tell us that God’s preparation for the coming of Jesus was full of surprises. Yet “Nothing is impossible for God.”

Do you remember Perry Como’s Love song in the late 1970’s which became a “Hit” entitled, “It’s Impossible?” The song starts out, “It’s impossible, to tell the sun to leave the sky; It’s just impossible. It’s impossible, to ask a baby not to cry; It’s just impossible...”

We could all come up with lots of quotes and phrases about the word impossible, but none could better illustrate its meaning than the famous words with which the angel Gabriel comforted a distraught Mary: “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Just close your eyes and imagine the scene of Mary and Gabriel and how powerful those words must have been for Mary and the relief she must have felt knowing that God was in control, and that with God, nothing is impossible.

We, too, need comfort and reassurance in these most troubling of times. The virus continues, and while we are hopeful for the vaccines which are being approved and rolled out, to be efficacious and help fight this Pandemic. So, meditating on Gabriel’s words of wisdom can, likewise, give us hope and strengthen our faith to face each day anew, knowing that with our God, nothing is impossible. And believing and embracing these words, will make respond together with Mary: “Behold, I am the handmaid/Servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word.”

As we focus on Gabriel’s words, think back to when you were younger and someone you looked up to may have told you, “Well, that is just impossible. You better get that out of your head.”

But now, with our faith much stronger, we know better. We know that with God at our side, our potential is unlimited, and whatever we focus our attention on can become reality. And because the Lord lives, we can face tomorrow!!! That reality is not limited to personal growth or gaining control over our lives, but also includes our potential to love others and to serve those in need – two actions which know no bounds. If we really want to do more for others and demonstrate our love and concern for them, yes, we can! “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Today, therefore, as we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and prepare for the joy of Christmas and the birth of our Savior that is soon to be upon us, let us realize the gift we received even before the birth of Jesus through the words of Gabriel: the gift of our unlimited potential as Christians to change the world and make it, and all who dwell in it, better. “For nothing will be impossible with God.”