5 B

# MDP of God

There was once a woman who had several friends who were seriously ill

She would go to visit her friends, and they would share stories of the good times they had in younger years

But when she left, she always had a feeling of being powerless to take their pain and frustrations away

One day when she turned to the Lord in prayer – She was at the point of tears – she was very frustrated and confused

And she kept praying over and over – “*God why? Why don’t you do something?!? Why don’t you give them comfort?!? Why don’t you take away their pain*?!? **Why don’t you do something**?”

She cried herself to sleep that night – and she had a dream – where Jesus stood before her *– and she was moved with the look of love and compassion on His face as she looked at Him*

--------------------------------------------------------------------

He said to her, “My child – I love you – I love Ben and Betty – Andy and Judy as well”[These were the names of her friends who were so ill]

“And I have done something to help them” – The woman in her dream heard herself say to Jesus, “I know you love us all, but what have you done to help my friends? *They just seem to be getting worse.”*

And Jesus responded, “**I made you. I gave them you.** *I gave them you so that they could know my love and compassion.”*

--------------------------------------------------------------------

My friends, the fact is that our lives can at times seem overwhelming

Like Job in our 1st reading today who said, “Is not man’s life on earth a drudgery… I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me….”

And poor Job goes on with some other discouraging thoughts

My friends, most of us aren’t going to face all the kinds of trials that poor Job faced in His life, but whether we face physical illness or the illnesses of our friends

Whether it be the monotony that often marks our daily lives

Particularly as the years go by it can seem like the same old- same old -*every day*

Or the disappointments we experience because we realize that some of the dreams we had will never become a reality

-----------------------------

Our lives in this world, **always** leaves us feeling a little empty- leaves us feeling not complete – /// we have a sense that something is missing-isn’t right-/// that there should be something more [*even during the best of times*]

And the reason for that of course, is because God has made us for Himself – He made us so that we could see Him face to face

And **when that happens** [when we see Him face to face] – *all our deepest longings will be fulfilled*

Because God has made each one of us with a God sized hole in us – a hole that only He can fill

And I’d like to make two points on this-[At first these mind sound contradictory – but they’re really complementary points]

First, it’s really important that we realize that there will always be an incompleteness to our lives – as long as we live on this earth

--------------------------------------------------------------------------

*God made us* so that we **can’t** be totally fulfilled by the things of this world [*We can only be totally fulfilled by Him*]

No matter what progress we make – no matter how many conveniences we have – no matter how many toys we purchase for ourselves

We can have the house of our dreams- the kind of car we always wanted – more money in the bank then we could ever spend-we can have lots a friends and a wonderful marriage- we could have boats- and snow mobiles- wave runners – airplanes - -- whatever toys we’ve dreamed of [They claim you can tell the men from the boys by the size of their toys]

But no matter what things we have – *they’ll never satisfy u*s – there’ll **always** be a sense that I need something else*- there must be something more*

--------------------------------------------------

And that’s because God had put a God sized hole in each of us that only He can fill

*He won’t totally fill us while we’re in this life* – He wants us always longing for more – the more that will come in heaven

*And when people don’t know that* they can go running around trying to find something that will fill that emptiness – *they waste their lives* and hurt all kinds of people because nothing ever fills what they’re looking for

I think it’s especially important that **married people** realize this [Next Sunday is World Marriage Day throughout the world-]

One of the problems in marriage today – is some people get married **falsely thinking** *that their spouse is going to fulfill their deepest desires* – that their spouse is going to fill all the longings in their heart

And of course **their spouse can’t do that** because their spouse **isn’t God**

# Only Go can fill our deepest desires

# Only God is the fulfillment of their deepest longings- because we’re made for Him

---------------------------------------------------

But some people get into marriage with this idea that **the right spouse** will fill those longings and desires – and they become resentful and angry with their spouse when they don’t

So it’s important for all of us to realize that God made us with this God sized hole in us – only He can fill it – ***and He won’t totally fill us in this life*** – only when we go to heaven will our deepest longings and desires be filled

Right now we’re like fish out of water – it’s only when we’re immersed in the life of God that we’ll feel at home – that we’ll be satisfied

That’s one of the reasons that Job in our 1st reading speaks of life as drudgery – he speaks of sleepless nights and restlessness

--------------------------------------------------------------

*With that being said*, **the second point I want to make** is this: it’s also important that we realize that we can be God’s instrument to bring one another *some* peace – *some* joy - *some* fulfillment

As I said, **we’ll never fill the deepest longings of another person**, *but we can point them in the right direction*

We can be instruments to help others experience God’s love – God’s compassion – God’s care

And I have to tell you, I’ve seen time and time again the people of St Helens do that for others

When someone is sick- people pull together to give comfort and support

When someone has lost a loved one – people again are there to grieve with each other

It’s like the story of the little boy who went to his best friends house – and the best friend had just lost his dog

And the little friend was **devastated** about losing his dog

So this boy goes over to the friend’s house – and when he gets home his mother asked him if he was able to help his friend

And the little boy said – Yeah I did. And the mother asked, “How did you help him?” And the little boy responded, “I helped him cry”

----------------------------------------------

Again In doing those things **we can’t** *take away their deepest pain* – we often can’t make their sickness go away – we can often walk away **feeling** *like we haven’t done anything*

But we can be an instrument to bring God’s love – to bring God’s compassion – to bring God’s care to the people who the Lord has put into our lives

That’s true of all of us – it can especially be true of married couples for one another

While no spouse can fill your deepest longing [because that deepest longing is for God and only He can fill it]

Husbands and wives can be an incredible instrument of God’s love and patience in each other’s lives

--------------------------------------------------------------------------

My friends, as with Job – sometimes our lives will seemingly be filled with drudgery, sleepless nights and restlessness

And that’s because nothing in this world will totally fulfill us – there will always be a sense that something is missing

Yet at the same time – we can be His instruments – to help the people around us to know that they are loved – the compassion of God – that they are not alone as they face the struggles of life

A card – a visit – a phone call – holding someone’s hand in hard times

These can be the things that brings God’s comfort [ We might not feel like we’re doing anything, but God can work through us to bring peace and comfort]

As we come together today---let’s ask the Lord to give us the grace to be His instrument in the world

*While none of us can ever fill the deepest longing of another*---we can help the people around us know that they are loved by God—know that God hasn’t abandoned them---know that the all-powerful God cares for them