Have Confidence in a Compassionate God October 27, 2024 - 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time Homily by Bishop Romie-Jun Peñalosa

There is only one message that I would like you to really grasp today. Maaring marami akong sasabihin pero itong bagay na to, talagang ito yung kailangan niyong maintindihan at dapat niyong panghawakan.

Our scriptures today encourages us that we should have confidence with God who is compassionate.

And in His compassion, He identified with us in our weakness.

And this God never sleeps and never stops praying for us.

Mahaba!

In other words, no matter what happens in your life, the problems, the crisis that you're going through,

sometimes pag may mga problema tayo, we begin to doubt the people around us.

When we're facing so much difficulties in life, sa sobrang hirap, sobrang lungkot minsan, we begin to doubt ourselves.

And sometimes we would even begin to doubt God.

We doubt if He really cares for us.

We doubt if there is really a God who is watching over us.

Yan ang nangyayari pag may mga problema tayo, matinding problema.

It causes us to question everything that we hold on to our life.

That is why it is important that when we come to those times, we should have confidence in one thing.

Ito lang talagang panghawakan mo.

You are going to hold on to the truth that God is compassionate.

Maluloyon ang Diyos natin.

And because He's compassionate, He will identify with you in your time of weakness.

In your difficult time, ang Diyos wala dun sa taas at nakatingin lang sa'yo.

God comes to us and He walks with us in our weakness.

Not only that, but God also prays and intercedes continually for us.

He never sleeps, He never stops praying for you.

And we will see that in the scriptures today.

Our first reading talks about Israel.

Ang first reading natin is about the nation of Israel, how when they were cast out from their own land,

the Lord promised, itong sabi ng Diyos sa kanila,

you are going to return to this land, I'm going to bring you back.

And this is what the Lord said, in His compassion, He promised them that I Myself will go with you.

I Myself will lead you, I will not just send anyone, but ako mismo, I will be there with you.

At binasa natin dun sa book ni Prophet Jeremiah, the Lord said,

He is with the lame, He is with the blind, He is with the deaf, He is with the women who are bearing child.

In other words, God was with those who are weak.

Binasa kasi iniisip natin, pag talagang mahina tayo and we are in the midst of a crisis,

God abandons us, iniiwan tayo ng Diyos.

He never does that.

That is not the kind of God I know.

The God that we know, the God that has been shared to us, is a God of compassion.

When I say compassion, He does not just look at you in your problem, He joins you.

Sinasamahan kanya.

We have a God who understands everything that you're going through.

Minsan akala natin, pag may lungkot tayo sa buhay natin, walang nakakaintindi sa atin.

Wala tayong kasama, wala tayong karamay sa paghihinag-peace, sa ating kalungkutan, walang karamay.

Well, I'll tell you now, in the midst of that, God is there with you.

And He feels, He understands, kasi kasama mo siya.

But not only will God identify with your weakness, identify with you, God will also make a way for you.

Ito naman yung sinasabi sa second reading natin, we have a high priest.

We should be confident with this God because our high priest is the Son of God Himself.

Jesus Himself. What does a high priest do? Ano bang trabaho ng high priest? Bakit sinabi dito na si Jesus is our high priest?

What does a high priest do? A high priest represents us before God.

He speaks for us to God.

Kung may problema ka, may pinagdadaanan ka sa buhay, minsan hindi ka na makapagdasal.

Minsan you just groan and moan and cry in your problem, hindi mo na masabi sa Diyos, iniiyak mo na lang.

And no one understands that better than Jesus Himself.

Because Jesus when He was here on earth walking with us, He offered prayers to God with groanings and moanings in His heart.

Nadaranasan niya yan.

Kaya minsan sasabihin natin, hindi na ako nakapag-pray, umiyak na lang ako, umiyak kayo Lord.

Alam mo, yung luha mo, your tears will speak louder than your words.

We have a high priest, Jesus, who cries out to the Father for you.

He knows every tear that you have. He knows what it meant.

That's why He comes to the Father and not like any high priest na may nagteterminate yung office nila.

Jesus lives forever. Amen?

And because He lives forever, He prays for you and me for all eternity.

He will not stop praying for us.

Gano kalakas ang prayer ni Jesus?

Wala pa siyang prayer na hindi sinasagot ng Diyos.

Christ does not have a prayer that God His Father will not answer.

If Christ is praying for you, if Christ is praying for me and for all of us, guess what?

Be confident that His prayers for you will be answered.

Amen?

God will make a way through the difficult times.

Now we go to the Gospel and we will see here a very good example of how compassionate our God is.

Kung gaano talagang mapagmahal.

How God is mahabagin yung sa Tagalog yan.

Kung sa bisaya pa, maluluyon ang Diyos natin.

You don't have to convince God na kaluluyan ka.

You don't have to convince God na kaluluyan ka.

He already knows.

He understands already your situation.

You don't have to convince God anymore.

That's why in our story today, we see here in the life of Christ when He was going to Jericho.

He was in Jericho and when they were going out of Jericho with His disciples, there was a great multitude.

Pag sinabing great multitude, hindi yan sinkwentang tao sumusunod sa Kanya or one hundred.

When you talk of a multitude, marami na yan.

Pero pag sinabing great multitude, sobrang dami yan.

There were people following Him, eager to see Him, eager to bring their problems before Him.

So one time when He was there and the people were accompanying Him, daming tao sumusunod sa Kanya.

There was this blind man by the name of Bar Timaeus.

What does that mean?

Timaeus is the name of His father.

0kav?

Kaya ang tawag sa Kanya si Bar.

Bar means son of Timaeus.

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0kav?
Amen?
Maraming Jun ang pangalan.
Kaya pag tinanong, sinong Jun?
Si Jun, anak ni Romeo.
Yan, para makilala nyo.
Sinong Jun?
Jun Peñalosa.
Peñalosa, apelido yan ng tatay ko.
Kaya pag sinabi mo, sinong Jun?
Sinong Jun?
Jun Peñalosa.
That's my father's name.
Ganito din si Timaeus, si Bar Timaeus, the son of Timaeus.
He was a blind man.
And you can see in his life, dahil sa sitwasyon niya, because of his
circumstances,
what happened to him?
He was on the roadside just begging.
That's the best that he can do for his life.
Hindi kagaya ngayon, pag bulag ka, maraming school na magtitrain sa'yo.
Maraming bulag ngayon, may trabaho.
Okay? I went to a restaurant in Manila.
Nakatingin yung waiter sa akin, ganyan.
Sabi ko, tinitingnan ko yung katawan ko, baka may diperensya.
Nakatingin siya, hindi ko alam, bulag pala yung waiter.
So nakatingin lang siya ganyan.
So na-conscious ako, ba't ako tinitingnan?
Madumi bang mukha ko? May diperensya ba?
Then I found out yung mga waiter doon, bulag.
In-employ sila dahil yung may-ari ng restaurant, bulag din.
And he believes that blind people can still work and they can still function.
You know, marami pang magagawa yung taong bulag sa panahon natin,
but in Jesus' time, no way.
Blind people will just go down in poverty.
Kaya ito si Timaeus, si Bartimaeus, he was on the roadside.
He was not walking on the road.
He was just on the roadside, sitting down and begging.
Yan na yung best na magawa niya.
Minsan tayo sa buhay natin, what is the best we can do?
Sometimes we're like Bartimaeus.
Ang dami nating gustong gawin sa buhay natin.
Ang dami gusto nating gawin para makaahon tayo sa mga sirkumstansya,
but we can never get out of it.
Talaga ganyan ang buhay mo.
Wala nang paraan na makaalis ka sa sitwasyon na yan.
Ganon din si Bartimaeus.
Until one day,
ay sabi ko sa inyo, may araw talaga.
May araw na magbabago ang buhay mo.
Yun ang paghandaan natin palagi.
Kung anumang pinagdadaanan mo sa buhay mo ngayon,
mga kapatid,
may araw ka rin.
May araw talaga yan.
Amen?
Kaya, huwag malungkot. Huwag mag-give up.
So he was there on the roadside begging.
Yan ang ginagawa ni Bartimaeus day in, day out.
That's what he does.
Wala na siyang ibang activity. Yan na lang.
And when I look at him sitting on the roadside, it's not even an activity.
Bakit? Wala namang lakad eh. Walang action. Nakaupulak.
Nag-aantay.
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Nabigyan siya ng ibang tao.
So one day, while he was sitting down begging,
this group of people, a great multitude was passing by.
So nagtanong siya, sabi niya, ba't magulo?
May ate-atehan ba?
Okay. Ano? May parade ba?
Merong bang parada?
Ano-ano nangyari?
You know, he was asking.
And later on, he found out that Jesus,
Jesus the miracle worker,
Jesus who was saying that he was the Messiah,
suddenly he realized Jesus was there passing by.
And you know what? I don't believe na aksidente yun.
It was really ordained by God that Jesus at that time,
at that particular moment,
he will be there for Bartimaeus.
Minsan nakala natin aksidente lang.
Aksidente lang na, you know, nakakaahon ako sa buhay.
You know, it's a coincidence.
Nakakaahon ako sa buhay.
You know, it's a coincidence na meet ko tong tao na to, tinulungan ako.
Hindi yan coincidence, mga kapatid.
May Diyos na nagmamahal at nagbabantay sa'yo.
At inaantay yung oras na yan.
Yung pagkakataon na yan na baguhin ang buhay mo.
And so the crowds were there,
and Bartimaeus was asking,
sabi niya, ano nangyayari? What's happening?
And the crowd said,
Jesus of Nazareth is here. He's passing by.
Ωh
Sabi niya, ito na yung pagkakataon ko.
This is my moment. This is my chance.
An opportunity has come.
And sometimes when an opportunity comes,
it only comes once.
It only comes.
May mga oportunidad na dumadating sa buhay natin
isang beses lang.
If you miss it, you will miss it for eternity.
Hindi na babalik yan.
That's why when an opportunity opens for you,
for God to meet you,
don't, don't miss that opportunity.
Let it be your prayer every day.
Every day when you wake up,
Lord, I know you have so much opportunities
open for me today to be blessed.
Don't make me miss any of those opportunities.
I want them all.
And so nung narinig ni Bartimaeus nandyan si Jesus,
pagkakataon to,
you know what he did?
He started to shout. Bakit?
Hindi niya alam kung saan si Jesus diyan.
He has never met the Lord.
He has never seen Jesus.
He only heard about Him.
Maraming kristyano ngayon,
hindi pa nila talagang na-encounter si Lord.
But they already heard about the Lord.
And so when he heard the Lord was there,
he has not seen Him.
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He started to shout.
Hindi niya alam kung saan siya.
Sabi niya,
Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me.
You know that word, son of David,
it means,
that is the title of the Messiah.
The twelve apostles know that Jesus is the Messiah.
But outside from the twelve, nobody knows
that Jesus was the Messiah.
Only the blind man
alam kagad niya.
And so he shouted,
son of David,
son of David,
maawa ka naman sa akin.
Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me.
Then when he was shouting,
nage-eskandalo na siya,
sigaw ng sigaw, bakit?
Yan lang yung pagkakataon niya.
Tatahimik ka pa ba?
And you know what happened?
The same crowd,
the same people,
the same group
that announced to him that Christ is there
is the same group that wants to silence him.
Shhh!
Naging-ingay-ingay mo, nage-eskandalo ka.
Damn it!
You know, it's really like that.
Yung mga taong nagpakilala sayo sa Diyos,
balang araw, yan din yung mga tao
that will silence you.
So they want him to be quiet.
Yeah.
Keep your mouth shut.
Pero anong ginawa ni Bartimaeus?
What did he do?
Nahiya siya?
Pag yung pagkakataon
na binuksan ng Diyos para sayo,
pagkakataon na makilala mo siya,
huwag kang mahiya.
Minsan, huwag na lang.
Nakakahiya.
Nakakahiya.
If God opens an opportunity for you,
don't be ashamed,
don't fear,
don't be afraid.
That is an opportunity the Lord wants you to take.
And He doesn't want you to miss that opportunity.
Bartimaeus knows this.
Kaya yung sinabihan siya,
tumahimik ka,
quiet,
ang skandaloso ka.
Tama na yan.
Maingay ka.
The more he shouted,
mas lalo niyang pinalakas yung boses niya,
Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!
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And he shouted and shouted and shouted until, until Jesus stopped. Tumigil ang Panginoon sa kanyang paglalakbay. You know, no one can stop God. Alam niyo ba yan? Alam niyo ba? Walang nakakatigil sa Diyos. No one can stop Him. If God will do a work in your life, kahit anong sabihin ng ibang tao, kahit anong gawin ng demonyo sa'yo, what God has begun in your life, He will be faithful to complete that. Today, today, God has begun something good in your life. Be assured, pag inumpisahan ng Diyos yan, tatapusin niya talaga yan. Amen? Doon ka makakaasa talaga. And Jesus stopped! Akalain mo, no power in heaven and earth can really stop God, but only a blind man who cries out to Him, appealing to His mercy and compassion. Doon napahinto ang Panginoon. He stopped. And it seems like when Jesus stopped, the whole world, the whole creation, stopped at that moment. Inaantay si Bartimaeus. And Jesus stopped and looked at Him. Christ has eyes for each and every one of us. Akala natin walang nakatingin sa ate. Akala natin pag may problema tayo, tinatalikuran tayo ng Diyos, hindi po nakatingin ang Diyos sa'yo. Sa kalagitnaan ng kalungkutan, pag hihinagpis, problema. You are not abandoned. God is watching you. He knows what you're going through and He sees you. He sees every detail of your problem. When we're sick, pag nagkasakit tayo, walang bumibisita sa atin. Wala man lang nagtatanong sa atin, Kumusta ka na? Masakit pa ba? Wala. And sometimes that's the time we feel so crushed inside that nobody cares for me. Then we begin to doubt God

if He really cares. But today, my dear brothers and sisters, let's just remind you, if no one else can see you, if no one else cares for you, God will always be there. Nakita siya ni Lord. Then the Lord called for him. The Lord motioned for him to come. You see, there is a calling. There is a calling of God for each and every one of us. And that calling is not about religion. When God calls a person, He does not call you to a religion. When God calls a person to Himself, that is a personal call of your Creator to His creation. And that is the most powerful thing that you could ever have when God calls you. Tinawag ni Cristo si Bartimaeus sa sobrang ingay sa palibot, sa sobrang daming tao, you know. Nandun pa rin si Bartimaeus, sigaw ng sigaw, hindi niya alam nakita na siya ng Diyos. Sigaw pa rin siya, Jesus, salub. Si Lord nakatingin na sa kanya. And so what happened, the same people who stopped him from praying are the same people who said, Oy, tinatawag ka, halika na. Kaya talaga, no, huwag kayong titingin sa tao. Pagsulood ng community natin, there will be people who will share Christ with you. And there will be people in our community that will stop you from walking with Christ. Nakakastambol. But there will be others that will bring you closer to Jesus. Don't look at people when you are in the church. You look to God only. Because it's not people who are calling you. It's God Himself who calls you. Bakit sa tao ko nakatingin, sino bang tumatawag sa'yo? Ang Diyos calls you. And this is the most beautiful thing. Nung tinawag niya si Bartimaeus, Bartimaeus cannot hear the Lord. And so the community, the people came to him, Hey Bartimaeus, ano, tama na, quiet na, tinatawag ka na. Sinagot na yung panalangin mo, nandun na, tinawag ka na.

You got his attention, now you go, you go. The first thing Bartimaeus did when he stood up, nung alam niyang tinawag siya ng Panginoon, nung tinatawag na siya ni Cristo, the first thing he did was to throw his cloak away. Alam mo yung cloak na yan? Yung cloak niya, yun ang una niyang tinapon. Tinapon niya kaagad. You know why? Because he knows something will change in his life. Alam niya. Alam niyo yung cloak na yan. Yung cloak na yan, that is the comfort that Bartimaeus, the only comfort he has in the world, yung cloak niya. Pag mainit, tatago niya yung sarili niya para hindi siya ma-sunburn. Hindi masira yung flawless skin niya. You know? Pag umuulan, ganun din. Yung cloak na yan covers him. Pag mahangin at malamig, yan din yung kinu-cover niya sa sarili niya. That cloak symbolizes, it symbolizes Bartimaeus' sense of security. Sa sobrang hirap ba naman yung sense of security mo, yung jacket mo na lang. But when Christ called him, he knew something is going to change. Alam niya may magbaba. Tinapon niya na yun. He threw it away. And he came to Jesus. You know, sometimes in our life, marami tayong pinaghahawakan. Kaya hindi nga tayong makalapit-lapit sa Panginoon, dahil nakahawak-hawak tayo din. Ano ba yung pinaghahawakan natin? Yaman? Do you feel secured in terms of wealth? One day, when we come to the hour of death, you will realize money can never, never save you from death. Sino bang pinaghahawakan mo? Yung magaling mong doktor? Hoy, Bishop, yung doktor ko. Top-notcher yan sa board.

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Magaling talaga.
Marami akong doktor na kilalang magaling
na una pang namatay sa pasyente nila.
Because doctors, they get sick also.
Huwag yung isipin na yung doktor hindi nagkakasakit.
Nagkakasakit rin yung doktor minsan.
Alam nyo ba yan?
Pare,
nagkakasala din.
Lalo na yung ubispo.
Nagkakasala din.
Ay, huwag talaga nga aasa sa tao.
Huwag titingin sa tao.
Palagi yung paningin natin,
fix your eyes on Jesus,
the author
and the finisher of your faith.
No matter what happens,
even if people you trust
and people that you look up to,
they will fail you,
never mind,
because my eyes is on Christ,
on Christ who never fails.
And He will not fail
at all.
Let go.
Let go.
Surrender
and just go to Christ.
Bartimaeus
threw his cloak and went to Christ.
Sabi nga nila,
when a blind man,
when a blind person begins to see,
the first thing he throws away
is his cane.
Yung baston niyang unang
itatapon niya.
Alam niyo yung mga bulag, diba?
Ganyan yan.
Pero pag yan nakakita na,
tinatapon niya kaagad yan.
In this case, Bartimaeus,
he only had his cloak.
Yun lang ang pag-aari niya sa mundong ito.
But when Christ called him
and he stood up,
knowing that God is calling him,
he threw that cloak away. It's gone. It's no more.
I'm not going to put my hope,
my confidence
on that thing.
I'm going to look on to Jesus.
And then he approached Christ.
WOW.
When he met Jesus,
itong sabi ni Lord sa kanya.
Wala nang palaboy-laboy pa.
Saan ka nakatira?
Anong number mo?
Ilang taon ka na?
Hindi ganyan si Lord.
Akala mo naman
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and DSWD. Hindi DSWD ang Diyos. When Bartimaeus finally met the Lord, when he came face-to-face, ang sabi ni Christo sa kanya, What do you want me to do for you? Wow. Last week, yung gospel natin, yung dalawang apostles, dalawang disciples ni Jesus, si James at si John, they came to Christ. Itong sabi nila, Lord, we want you to do for us what we ask. Sila nagsabi. You do for us. We want you to do for us what we ask of you. Anong hiningi nila kay Lord? Sabi nila, We want position, power, and authority. Pero si Bartimaeus iba. Bartimaeus, ang sabi niya lang sa Panginoon, Have mercy, maawa ka lang sa akin. Kahit anong ibigay mo, okay na ako. But the Lord himself, siya mismo, si Christo mismo nagsabi, What do you want me to do for you? Baliktad. Because of humility, the grace of God would abound. God always, always gives grace to the humble. But he also always resists the proud. And so in humility, Bartimaeus came and he said, you know, have mercy on me. And Jesus said, what do you want me to do for you? Anong gusto mong gawin ko para sa'yo? And Bartimaeus said, I want to see. Anong hiningi niya? Did he ask for money? Humingi ba siya? Bigyan mo ako ng limpak-limpak na salapi. Bigyan mo ako ng mansiyon sa burakay. Bigyan mo ako ng maraming lupa. Bigyan mo ako ng kung ano-ano mga bagay. He did not ask for those things. Give me position, give me authority,

make me something. He did not ask for that. He asked for what is essential in life. He asked for the most important thing that we could have. And that is sight. That is sight. Sabi niya, I want to see. I want to see. And Jesus said to him, Okay, you go. Walang daming kwento. Walang daming eche boreche. When he said, I want to see, Jesus said, Okay, you go. Your faith has already healed you. Why? Because before you cry out to God, God already knows what you need. Before you even reach out to God, God already has this intention in His heart to help you, to bless you. Nandiyan na yan sa puso ng Diyos. Hindi mahirap kausapin ng Diyos. Ang Diyos na nakakaalam ng lahat ng aspeto, lahat ng bagay sa buhay mo, alam niya na yan. All He wanted was for Bartimaeus to reach out in faith. All He wanted was for Bartimaeus to trust Him more than He would trust His cloak. Anong hinihingi mo sa Diyos? Let go of the other things and just put your mind and heart on God. Ikaw lang, Lord, makakatulong sa akin. And so, sabi ni Lord sa kanya, okay, go, Bartimaeus. Your faith has healed you and that instant, that instant, that moment, Bartimaeus began to see. And the first thing he saw, the first thing he saw, ito yung gusto kong gusto ko talaga to pag binemeditate ko, ang una niyang nakita, ang una niyang nakita, magandang mukha ng Panginoon.

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Ano
rupus at mata
kung hindi mo mata makita,
ruuyahon at atong ginoo.
Di ba? Hay nagmata ka pa.
Ba't ka pa nagkaroon ng mata
na ayaw mo naman tingnan yung Panginoon.
Ang Panginoon na may
likha ng buhay mo, ang Panginoon
na minahal ka ng lubos
sa cross.
What good is your eyes if you cannot see Him?
If you will not
and refuse to see Him?
Kaya nga sabi ni
ni Bartimaeus, you know,
when he saw Christ,
the next thing he did,
when Jesus started to walk,
nagpatuloy yung Panginoon sa paglalakbay niya,
Bartimaeus
followed Jesus
on the road,
on the way
he walked with Christ.
My dear brothers and sisters,
if you have received a miracle from God,
ask yourself,
ask yourself,
Sumusunod ba ako sa Kanya? Hindi.
Yan ang tanongin mo.
Sumusunod ba ako sa Kanya? Hindi.
When Bartimaeus received his sight
and saw Christ for the first time
in his life,
the scripture says that he started to walk
and follow Jesus on the way.
Do you know that the early Christians,
the early Christians,
they were not called Christians,
they are called followers of the way.
Yan ang unang pangalan ng mga Krisyano noon.
They are not called Christians.
Ngayon lang yan, sa panahon natin,
tinawag tayong Christians.
But those
early Christians, they were not called Christians,
they were called followers of the way.
Why? Because
Jesus is our way.
Amen?
Jesus is our way.
Kahit saan ka sa mundo,
kahit anong pinagdadaanan mo,
kung tayo'y sumusunod
kay Kristo, siya yung daan.
And that road will
always lead you back to God.
It will always bring you
to God, no matter what happens.
And so Bartimaeus,
when he saw Christ, he started to
walk the way
following Christ. And this
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is the challenge of the gospel
today.
Now you have seen the Lord
in your life. Now, for how many
years you have now seen
Christ, titigil ka na ba
sa paglalakbay
na sumusunod
kay Kristo? Will you stop now?
Will you give up now?
Far be it
from us that we would stop walking
and following Christ.
Dahil nastambol ako
sa isang tao, dahil
may nakita ako sa simban, hindi maganda,
ayaw ko na.
Ganun ba yun?
Sayang naman yung
ginawa ng Diyos sa inyo.
That at the last
moment, you will not follow Him anymore.
Let us be challenged today.
Start walking with
Christ. If you
have been walking with the Lord for 20 years,
30 years, you have been walking with it,
don't stop now.
Continue to walk
with Him. Follow Him
until the end.
Until the end, you
walk with Him.
I would leave you a prayer today.
Memorize this
prayer. Pray this everyday.
This will
really help you as you follow Christ.
Ito yung prayer.
Lord,
open
my ears so I can hear
what I ought to hear.
Open my eyes
that I may see
what I ought to see
so that I can
do the things
that I ought
to do.
Memorize that prayer.
Lord,
open my ears so I can
hear what I ought
to hear. Open
my eyes so I can
see what I
ought to see
so that I can do the
things that I ought
to do. Amen.
Please stand.
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