

Saturday 19 October

Rom 4:13,16-18, Ps 105:6-9,42-43, Lk 12:8-12

From Baptised and Sent

How can anyone who rejects the Spirit, who is the very source and agent of the forgiveness, repentance, and renewal of the disciples, be forgiven? Luke sees this confirmed in the experience of the hardening and blindness of those who have rejected the witness of the apostles. It is a total, free, and conscious closure to the action of the Spirit and to the Spirit's movement of reconciliation and forgiveness, to such an extent that no one can be forced, against explicit will and action, to be saved. The welcoming or the rejection of the Spirit of God is a mysterious relationship of our conscience and our freedom with God; our hearts are fully scrutable only by God and in God. Only God, who knows our hearts, grants forgiveness of sins and salvation. (p. 145)

From Pope Francis

Abraham "hoped against hope" in God's promises. Trusting in the Lord's word that a son would be born to him, Abraham left his home for a new land. Although the fulfilment of God's promise was long delayed and seemed to be impossible, Abraham continued to hope. Abraham, our father in faith, shows us that sure trust in God's word does not mean that we will not have moments of uncertainty, disappointment and bewilderment...ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*ⁱⁱ

ⁱ General Audience, Paul VI Audience Hall, Wednesday, December 28, 2016

ⁱⁱ Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux: 1999), 79.