

## The Lord provides ... trust in His care!

Before entering Seminary, during my days living in **California** and working for **Eastman Kodak Company**, my **co-workers and I** had **the opportunity** to take a **Team Building** course called "**Ropes**".

Perhaps you've heard of it or even taken it yourself ... **the Ropes Course** is a **challenging outdoor personal-development and team-building activity**.

The goal is to get you to stretch the limits of what you think you can do!

Many of the **exercises** have you climb to great heights, in **trees** and onto **platforms** using **ropes**, giving it the name, **The Ropes Course**.

But the **first exercise** they had us do did not involve ropes. It simply involved climbing up onto a Tree Stump some **10 feet** off the ground, closing your eyes and falling off backward ... hopefully into the arms of 6 of your teammates.

**Can you see yourself doing that?**

Realize **no one** is holding a gun to your head!

No, you're doing this freely ... by **your own choice!**

**Here's how** they set it up.

**First** they showed us how to interlock our arms & wrists with another person and stand side by side to form a human stretcher to catch the falling person.

Then, **one at a time** we would fall into the arms of the team.

It took **courage** to fall backward from **10 feet off the ground**.

**But more than that** ... it took **trust** ... **trust** in your **teammates**.

It's **wasn't enough** for them just to have **the physical strength** to catch you.

That was **primary** and **essential!**

**They also** had to have the intention, the desire, the determination to catch you.

**You** had to trust that they had the ability to catch you and the desire to catch you!

**Well, I did trust them ... and so I did it!**

I **intentionally** fell backward off a **10 ft tree stump** ...

and was gently caught by **6 other people**.

I was **happy** and **relieved** for successfully doing something kind of risky ...

something I never would have done if I didn't trust my teammates!

**Suppose that** the 6 people stationed to catch me were **6 Third Graders ...**  
**do you think I would have fallen? No way!**  
Because they wouldn't had the physical strength to catch me.

**Suppose that** the 6 people stationed to catch me were **6 Defensive Linemen ...**  
from the **University of Alabama ...** and they knew I went to **Auburn ...**  
**do you think I would have fallen? No way!**  
**Sure they'd be plenty strong enough,** but I wouldn't be sure their intention ...  
was to keep me safe!

So you see, **trusting someone is built on 2 things ...**  
**First - if they have the capacity and second - if they have the desire to help you.**

Well, **God wants us to trust Him,** and He knows that our willingness to trust Him  
will be dependent on us believing in His ability and His desire to help us.

**And that's why** over and over again ... throughout His entire Book, the Bible ...  
**God demonstrates ... His almighty power and His devoted love** for all of us!  
He wants to reassure us that He has the capacity and the desire to help us

In our **First Reading** from the Book of **Kings**, the prophet **Elijah asks a widow** to  
give him **something to eat.** **And it's real clear** that **if** she does that, she won't  
have any ingredients left to make food for herself and her son.

**But Elijah asks her to trust that God will take care of her,** promising:  
*"For the Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of flour will not go empty.'"*

**The woman believed this ... and so she went ahead and used her remaining flour**  
**to make a little cake for Elijah.**

And **her trust in God** was rewarded with full year's supply of oil and flour!

**She did not go hungry and die ... because God took care of her needs.**  
**She let herself fall,** so to speak ... **and God caught her ... in His arms!**

That's **exactly the kind of trust that God wants all of us to have in Him.**

**Certainly, the widow didn't understand exactly how the extra ingredients would be**  
**provided to her ... she just trusted that God would work it out. And he did!**

In our **Gospel** today, we hear about another trusting widow.  
**Jesus makes a point of noticing and commending her action ...**  
**of placing two small coins into the Temple treasury.**

What's so great about that?

It's that she gave not from her excess ... but from her need.

She gave the little money she had to others ...  
trusting that God would still provide for her.

You could say ... that she too ... let herself fall ... into the arms of God!

Do you believe that God has the power to care for you?

Do you believe that God has the desire to care for you?

If you do ... then that brings great joy to God.

God wants us to believe that He can and will help us in all our needs.

We call this trusting in Divine Providence ... trusting that God will provide.

In fact, those are **the very words** that are **engraved in stone over the entrance** to **Notre Dame Seminary** in New Orleans, Louisiana ... *"God will provide"*.

Indeed **He will ... He always does ... if we but trust in his power and care.**

**Divine Providence** is **the very way** that the **Cenacolo Drug Recovery House** operates out in Hanceville and in 5 other cities. The residents there ask for nothing & buy nothing ... living solely on whatever food & amenities are bought to them.

They trust ...and God provides ... through other people.

In all of this, **God** wants us to recognize His loving care ... and trust Him.

We're reminded of God's loving care in our **Second Reading** where the author of **Hebrews** says, *"Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time ... to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him."*

Do you sense His power? *"offered once to take away the sins of many"*

Do you sense His desire? *"to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him"*

It's so clear ... that **God** loves us ... and that He wants to take care of us!

All **He** asks ... is that we trust Him.

That's **the very reason** why **Jesus** revealed Himself to Sr. Faustina in the 1930's & had her publish the Divine Mercy image with the words, *"Jesus, I trust in you."*

He wants us to have the trust of the widows in Scripture.

He wants us to trust in **Divine Providence**.

**Coming to Mass is actually one way we demonstrate our trust in God!**

It's **in Mass** that **Jesus comes and gives Himself to us**, veiled under the appearance of **bread and wine** to be our **help**, our **strength** and our **support**.

We can't see Him with our eyes ... but we believe He's truly present ... with the power ... and the desire ... to feed us with Himself.

The **Apostles experienced this at the Last Supper** when **Jesus fed them ... with His own Body and Blood** in the elements of Bread and Wine.

**And just as the widow in the Temple gave all she had, her whole livelihood ... Jesus gave His whole self to us in the New Passover of His Body and Blood** that began at the Last Supper and was consummated on the Cross at Calvary.

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And **He continues to give us His whole livelihood** in every Holy Communion.

**Unlike the miracle of the flour in Zarephath that ended after a year**.

**The miracle of Jesus coming to us as the Bread of Life** has been going on for 2000 years ... and will never end ... till the end of time!

**Actually, when Elijah said**, the "*flour shall not go dry*," that prefigured ... that God's Bread from Heaven ... Jesus in the Eucharist ... would not go dry.

**Yes, God loves to give us what we need**.

**He wants us to trust in his loving care**, and to become givers ourselves.

There's **no reason not to be generous ... like the two widows in Scripture ... if you trust that God will provide for you.**

**God's already given us everything ... by giving us His Son Jesus!**

**By trusting in Him ... we become givers too**.

And **then others come to experience the love and care of God** through us!

**Just as I trusted that my teammates had the ability and the desire to catch me ... when I let myself fall off that tree stump**,

let's **trust that the all-powerful ... ever-loving God ... will catch us too not only every day of our lives ... but most especially at the end of our life ... when we close our eyes for the last time ... and fall back into the arms of God**.