

THE BOAT, THE ROPE AND THE SHORE

From the book of Fr. P. Ribes, s.j. "Stories, Parables and Fables published by the Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.

Intent of the Story

In our dealings with God, it is he who takes the initiative

We have to allow God to pull us to Himself.

Self-abandonment into God's hands is the best and surest way to find Him.

The Story

At the shore of a lake, a child was looking at the fishermen's boat approaching the rocky bank.

One of the fishermen hurled a rope from the boat into the sharp rocks of the shore. Once the rope was firmly fixed on one of the rocks, the fisherman began pulling the rope with all his might.

The boy turned to his Dad and asked: "Dad, do you think that this man by pulling the rope will move the rocks closer to the boat?"

"Not at all", his Dad replied. "It's rather the other way about. It is the rocks that will pull the boat closer to them". The rocks do not move. It is the boat that does".

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.

1. Has this little story any lessons to teach us about our dealings with God? Which?
2. In our relationship with God, actually, who is coming closer to whom? How and Why?
3. In order to stay close to God, have we to pull any ropes? Which? Why?
4. Can you learn something from this story about your prayer life? What?
5. Can we pull God closer to us, or rather we have to let ourselves be pulled by God. How?
6. Find a couple of texts of the Gospel to that effect?

IDEAS FOR FOR REFELCTION AND A MINI- INPUT.

Recommended book: "Self abandonment of Fr. De Caussade"

- It is not we who can move God towards us. It is just the opposite. It is He who moves us towards him
- In our dealings with God, he takes the initiative. We just have to cooperate with his grace by not putting obstacle on the way.
- It is not so much that we have to find God. We have to allow him to find us
- We have to let go. He will do the rest.
- In prayer, it is the Spirit of God that pulls us to Himself and makes us Sons of God "It is by the Spirit's power that we cry to God "Father, my Father". " Abba, Father"

- Without Him, we can do nothing.

BIBLE TEXTS

- Jn 6/44 - "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him to me"
- Jn 14/6 - "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one goes to the Father except through me"
- Jon 15/5- "Remain united to me...without me you can do nothing".
- 2 Cor 6/18 "I will be your Father and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty".
- Rom 8/14-16 "Those who are led by God's spirit are God's sons... and by the Spirit's power, we cry to God: Abba, Father! Father, my Father!"
- Gal 4/6-7 "To show that you are his sons, God sent the spirit of the son into your hearts, the Spirit that Cries "Abba, Father! Father, my Father".