

Trinity Sunday B  
Deuteronomy 4:32-40

St. John Paul II  
Romans 8:14-17

2018  
Matthew 28:16-20

I'd like to focus today on the first two readings  
and to do so I want to start with three quotes.

You might be familiar with all 3, but they will provide an excellent backdrop  
to 3 themes that I think are evident in our first two readings today.

The first quote is often attributed to Robert Schuller. Here it is:  
*What would you do if you were 100% certain you could not fail?*

The second quote is often attributed to Michelangelo:  
*The greater danger for most of us have is not in setting our aim so high  
that we miss it, but setting our mark low and achieving it.*

And the final quote comes to us from Henry Ford:  
*If you think you can or if you think you can't ...you're right.*

In our first reading today, Moses is giving the Israelites a little pep talk...  
And why not, they are about to enter the promised land.  
God sent them a prophet named Moses and spoke to him in a burning bush.  
They have been slaves in Egypt, God got them out.  
They were chased by the great Egyptian army,  
God saved them at the Red Sea.  
They got thirsty---water came from rock...hungry---bread came from heaven.

Over and over and over and over and over and over again  
God proved that he was with them...  
And so Moses reminds them that God was always with them:  
*"Ask now of the days of old, before your time,  
ever since God created man upon the earth;  
ask from one end of the sky to the other:  
Did anything so great ever happen before?"*

Moses led the people of Israel to freedom because he was certain  
that he could not fail...He knew beyond a doubt that God was with him.

Earlier in Deuteronomy, in this same speech, Moses reminded the Israelites  
how important it was to remember what God has done for them—  
to make it known to their children and to their children's children.

In verse 9 he said this:

Take care, and earnestly be on guard not to forget the things  
which your own eyes have seen,  
nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live,  
but teach them to your children and your children's children...

My friends, that is a challenge to us...If we know that Jesus is in our lives;  
if we know that God has worked wonders in our own Red Seas...

If we know that God has fed us during times of want...

And quenched our thirst when we didn't know where else to turn;

We cannot forget that...We are invited to share that...

My friends, That's evangelization....

It is simply sharing what we know to be true about

why we serve the awesome God that we serve.

Because God has done so much for us.

And so that gets us to our second quote, the one from Michelangelo::

*The greater danger for most of us have is not in setting our aim so high  
that we miss it, but setting our mark so low and achieving it.*

In our second reading today, in Romans we are reminded:

You did not receive a Spirit of slavery to fall back into fear...

But a spirit of adoption that allows us to call God "ABBA"

But how easy it is to fall into fear...and so we set our goals low...

we accept the mediocrity of our lives.

Blaise Pascal, a 17<sup>th</sup> century scientist and Catholic theologian, put it this way:

*The highest order of the mind is accused of folly, as well as the lowest.*

*Nothing is thoroughly approved but mediocrity.*

But God does not want us to accept mediocrity...

God has made us for greatness.

How do we know that...look at the people in the scriptures who were afraid...

And how God went to work in their lives...

Joseph was afraid to take Mary into his home...

the angel said, Joseph, don't be afraid...worked out okay.

Mary was afraid to be the mother of the savior...

but the angel said, don't be afraid...worked out pretty well...

I know you're thinking...well I'm no Joseph and I'm no Mary, I'm no saint...

How about this one...remember the woman with the hemorrhage?  
Just an ordinary person—she was in need of something but afraid to ask.  
She was afraid to approach Jesus and ask for a miracle...  
If I but touch the hem of his garment...  
She did...she was healed and it worked out ok.  
Or the blind man sitting beside the road...  
The disciples help him up and tell him,  
Don't be afraid, go to Jesus.  
He finally does...and it works out for him too.

My friends we can go through life, motivated by fear  
or we can remember, as Moses asked us to do...  
all the different ways God has been present in our lives...  
We can remind ourselves that we serve an awesome God  
who invites us to live awesome lives.

I think it was Norman Vincent Peale who said:  
*Reach for the moon and even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.*

Which leads us to our final quote from Henry Ford:  
*If you think you can or if you think you can't ...you're right.*

Several years ago, Nike ran an ad campaign called Just Do it...  
One of their ads a magazine piece that highlighted  
the accomplishments of people chronicled in the back of Sports Illustrated.

**94-year-old swimmers.**  
**89-year-old weightlifters.**  
**99-year-old marathoners.**  
**The back of Sport's Illustrated is full of them.**

**People who forgot to retire.**  
**And never got old.**  
**People who realized:**  
**It's easier to keep going**  
**If you never stop.**

**JUST DO IT.**

**Get up. Get out.  
Build up the muscle.  
Get rid of the flab.  
Go back to school.  
Sell the TV.  
JUST DO IT.**

**Master the curveball.  
Pound the bag.  
Rebuild an engine.  
Jump-start a career.  
JUST DO IT.**

**Bench press four big plates.  
Dig for fossils.  
Bicycle across Canada.  
Save an endangered species - yourself.  
JUST DO IT.**

**The only one who can tell you you can't, is you.  
And you don't have to listen.**

*If you think you can or if you think you can't you're right.*

My friends, the first two readings today are an invitation...  
They are an invitation to you to do three things:

- 1) Never forget that God is with you
- 2) Don't be afraid
- 3) Don't settle for anything less than your very best.

Do those three things and you'll grow beyond your wildest dreams:  
As a person, As a Christian, and as a Disciple.