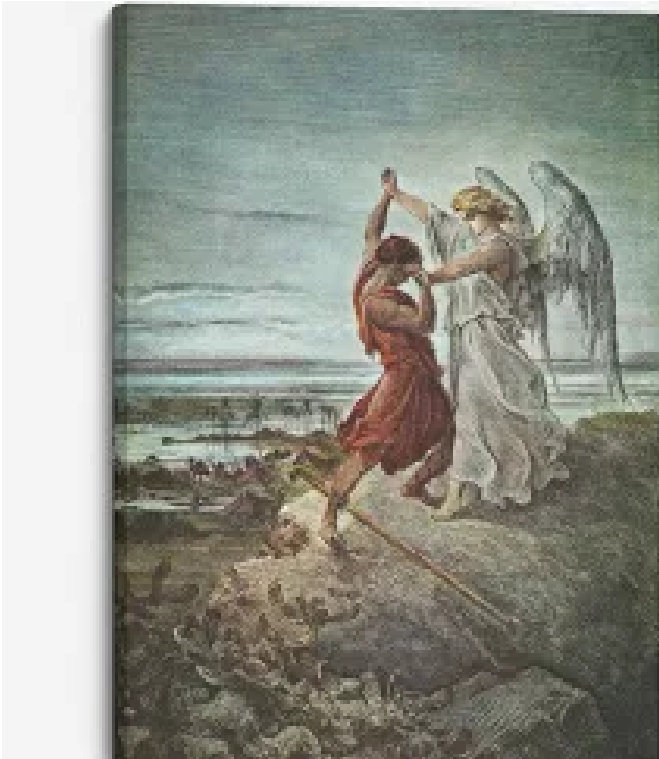


NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 24C)

Faith Clings to the Word and Promises of God and Perseveres in Prayer



Background: The lessons continue with Paul advice to Timothy to become a good Pastor, and Luke recounting Christ's teachings. They lead us to understand that we are blessed if we simply follow God's teachings and trust in Him. Jacob wrestled with God, not letting go, until he received a blessing from God, though it cost him a displaced hip. Christ tells the story of a judge who was not really interested in helping a poor lady who was defrauded. Because she asked over and over for justice, he gave it to her to get her off his back. The point Christ made, is God is generous with His justice to all who trust in Him. thus it is important we stay in the Word, and reach out in prayer for our spiritual needs.

Jacob wrestles with the Angel Paul Gustave Dior 1855

Lessons: Genesis 32:22–30, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5, Luke 18:1–8 “*Left alone,*” Jacob wrestled through the night with the Lord, “*until the breaking of the day*” (Gen. 32:24). Though “*Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him*” (Gen. 32:25), he would not let go until the Lord blessed him. At times, we, too, strive with God; He strives with us and blesses us by grace. So Jesus teaches us “*always to pray and not lose heart*” (Luke 18:1). Jesus speaks of “*a judge who neither feared God nor respected man*” and of a widow “*who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary’*” (Luke 18:2–3). Because of her persistence, the judge agreed to “*give her justice*” (Luke 18:5). Our Lord dispenses justice generously and swiftly, giving “*justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night*” (Luke 18:7). He does so according to the Gospel. Therefore, His ministers are to persevere faithfully in their vocation, in what they “*have learned and have firmly believed*” (2 Tim. 3:14). On the basis of “*the sacred writings*” (2 Tim. 3:15), they are to “*preach the word*” at all times and not lose heart (2 Tim. 4:2).