

**Connecting Music to Mass**  
**October 23, 2016**

**Today's readings are found at #1181 in the hymnal.**

As I mentioned last week, Ordinary Time is a “refresher course” on discipleship. On this journey, we hear about a series of themes. For instance, the first two Sundays in October focused on faith; last Sunday we expanded on faith by hearing about prayer – specifically, the importance of persistent prayer. This week we're challenged to examine the *authenticity* of those things.

As usual, Jesus uses extreme and startling examples in his parable. “Lord, teach us how to pray” comes to mind after hearing the prayer of the Pharisee. He starts off okay by thanking God, but the rest of the prayer sounds like a “Pharisee of the Year Award” speech. You'll also notice the only mention of others is in a demeaning context. On the other hand, the tax collector's prayer is simple, to the point, and **authentic**. He acknowledges his sinfulness and repents. This echoes the message of the First Reading from Sirach: the Lord hears the prayer of the orphan and the widow (orphans and widows were vulnerable, marginalized, and oppressed). The Lord doesn't show partiality based on social status; he knows and hears his true disciples.

The opening hymn “Deliver Us, O Lord of Truth” (#750) gets us engaged in the gospel parable right away by imploring the Lord to deliver us from words that are unbacked by deed. In the second stanza, weightless words are compared to “building your house on sand,” a metaphor from a different parable. The fourth stanza asks God to help our actions follow our words – to put our **creed** into **deeds**. James 2:26 comes to mind: “ For just as a body without a spirit is dead, *so also faith without works is dead.*” The hymn text challenges us to examine the **authenticity** of our faith, and how we put it into action...or not.

Paul's letter to Timothy serves as an example of an authentic life of discipleship. Even in his final days after much trial and tribulation, Paul glorifies God! He names the ways God has strengthened and sustained him in his ministry of evangelization. If you ever need an example of persistent, authentic, and unwavering faith, start reading one of St. Paul's epistles. We go out into the world today with the example of St. Paul. The hymn text “God Whose Purpose is to Kindle” (#813) invokes mission and evangelization. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the courage to put our creed into deed this week, just as St. Paul did.

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**[Click here - Sunday Readings for October 23, 2016](#)**

## Deliver Us, O Lord of Truth



1. De - liv - er us, O Lord of Truth, From  
2. For you have taught that weight - less words Are  
3. When we with bold, fa - mil - iar phrase Con -  
4. Lord, help us build on sol - id rock No



speech un - backed by deed, From lives that by their  
like the shift - ing sand. When storm and flood come  
fess that you are Lord, You ask for lives whose  
floods can un - der - mine. May ac - tions fol - low



faith - less - ness De - ny our spo - ken creed.  
rag - ing in, They give no place to stand.  
faith - ful - ness Sup - ports our spo - ken word.  
words we speak; Let creed with deed com - bine.