

THE CATHOLIC Globe ...in the classroom

CATHOLIC CATECHESIS
on a 'Global' level

ON THE RECORD Trusting God in difficult times



By CHARLIE MARTIN

Lauren Daigle, 25, who won numerous recognitions at Nashville's 2016 Dove Awards, said, "I want God to speak louder than the music." Given her rise in Christian music, and how some of her songs have crossed over to conventional pop, surely God is speaking through her gifts and abilities.

Her first No. 1 chart hit "Trust in You" asks us to consider: How do we trust God's guidance in our lives when current outcomes are far from what we wanted?

"Trust in Me"

Letting go of every single dream
I lay each one down at your feet
Every moment of my wandering
Never changes what you see

I've tried to win this war I confess
My hands are weary, I need your rest
Mighty warrior, king of the fight
No matter what I face, you're by my side through.

Refrain:

When you don't move the mountains I'm needing you to move
When you don't part the waters, I wish I could walk through
When you don't give the answers as I cry out to you
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in you

Truth is you know what tomorrow brings
There's not a day ahead you have not seen
So, in all things be my life and breath
I want what you want Lord and nothing less
(Repeat refrain.)

You are my strength and comfort
You are my steady hand
You are my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand

Your ways are always higher
Your plans are always good

There's not a place where I'll go, you've not already stood

(Repeat refrain twice.)

I will trust in you

Sung by Lauren Daigle
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Although she feels discouraged about her life, she is ready to affirm that "you are my steady hand, you are my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand," and so, "I will trust in you."

She has chosen to live with surrender to God with faith. As Jesus' followers, we are challenged to do the same. Still, when life does not unfold as we wish, if indeed God does not seem to be "moving mountains" or "parting waters" as we hoped for, doubt and questions may arise.

It is important to be honest about such discouragement – maintaining faith and trust in God during such experiences is difficult. Jesus also knew this challenge. Yet, Jesus points us the way to surrender and trust.

Jesus lived out and taught that God is always on our side. Still, we are human beings who face painful feelings when we encounter loss, grief, disappointment. It is normal to wonder if God does stand with us through these times of hurt. How do we live by faith when we are not sure where our lives are headed?

Perhaps a beginning response starts with the recognition that our vision of our lives is limited by our own hopes and expectations. At times, God's purpose for our lives is larger than we can see at any one time. Where we think that we are headed may be affected by surprises or detours that we never saw coming. Yet, if we hold on to the song's statement, "I will trust in you," grace and new guidance will emerge.

Jesus taught us that God's healing is always coming to us even when we cannot see or feel it. If we can keep trust in our hearts, a path will open up that takes us beyond the "mountains," and the "waters" we need to cross suddenly become less deep than we first thought.

As members of Jesus' community, we strive to become the presence of God for all who need such love. This is what Jesus asked us to be for each member of God's family.

We will need to accept mystery in our lives. God's view is bigger than our view. To accept this statement is to live by faith. May we truly help each say, "I will trust in you."

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CHILDREN'S STORY

Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery

By JENNIFER FICCAGLIA
Catholic News Service

Jacob had 12 sons. His favorite was one of the youngest ones, Joseph.

Jacob loved Joseph so much that he gave the boy a special coat that was very beautiful.

Joseph's brothers were jealous and began to hate him. They hated him even more after the boy told his family about some of his dreams.

In one of the dreams, Joseph saw 11 stars, the sun and the moon, all of which bowed down before him.

Joseph's brothers were angry when they heard this, and even Jacob scolded the boy. They thought it was wrong for Joseph to think his elders would bow before him.

One day, Joseph's brothers were tending the flocks, and Jacob asked Joseph to see how they were doing.

When the brothers saw Joseph approaching, they started to grumble.

"Here comes that master dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let us kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns here; we could say that a wild beast devoured him. We



shall then see what comes of his dreams."

One of the brothers, Reuben, stopped them.

"Instead of shedding blood," he said, "just throw him into that cistern there in the desert; but do not kill him outright."

Reuben planned to rescue Joseph and return him to Jacob unharmed.

So when Joseph reached his brothers, he was stripped of his special coat and thrown into the cistern. Then his brothers went to have something to eat.

While they ate, they decided to sell Joseph instead of killing him. So the brothers sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver. He was taken to Egypt, where he became the slave of the pharaoh's chief steward.

When Reuben returned to the cis-

tern and found Joseph was gone, he was so upset that he tore his clothes.

The brothers decided to cover up what they had done by killing a goat and dipping Joseph's coat in the blood. They sent the coat to Jacob.

"My son's tunic! A wild beast has devoured him! Joseph has been torn to pieces!" Jacob cried when he saw the coat.

No matter how much his children tried to comfort him, Jacob would not stop mourning the son who he thought was dead.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Genesis 37

Q&A

1. Who was Jacob's favorite son?
2. Who suggested that Joseph's life be spared?

PUZZLE

Unscramble the letters in each word to form a sentence from the children's story.

seojhp sah eneb nort ot csipee

Answer: See page 19

ESSAY

Why is it sinful to be jealous of others?

FEATURED SAINT

St. Lucy Filippini

St. Lucy Filippini was born in Italy in 1672. She was orphaned when she was a little girl, but the bishop of Montefiascone and Corneto, Italy, acted like a father toward her.

The bishop was very interested in educating children, especially

young women. When she was older, Lucy helped him and Blessed Rose Venerini form the Institute of the Maestre Pie. She also helped create and maintain girls' schools in that diocese and beyond.

The institute eventually became known as the Religious Teachers Filippini. It helped to educate many women before people were required to go to school.

St. Lucy died in 1732. We remember her on March 25.

BIBLE ACCENT

God does not want us to be jealous

There are many stories in the Bible that talk about people who were jealous and the bad things they did as a result. For example, in Genesis 4, we read about two brothers, Cain and Abel. When God liked Abel's offering better than Cain's, Cain became jealous and killed his brother.

In Genesis 29-30, Jacob married two sisters, Leah and Rachel. Since Jacob loved Rachel but not Leah, God allowed Leah to have children, but not Rachel. Rachel became nasty and competitive toward Leah because she was jealous that Leah could

have children.

In 1 Samuel 18, King Saul became jealous of David's popularity after David killed the Philistine Goliath. King Saul was always plotting to do evil things to David and wanted to kill him. David had to flee from Saul many times to save his life.

God does not want us to be jealous and do bad things because of our jealousy. That is why the last of God's Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 tells us we should not covet anything that belongs to our neighbors.

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