

Sermon

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

Eugenia Theresa Wilson

June 14, 2009

2 Corinthians 5:17

Mark 4:30-32

In a few short days, we will be entering into that wonderful season called summer. As Nat King Cole called it, "Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer."

A time where most children will be out of school. A time for family picnics and/or family vacations. A time where most people will be looking for that cool place either at their nearest beach or next to their nearest air conditioner.

Summer is also a time, when most churches, will enter into their quiet period, most commonly know as, "Ordinary Time." A time where there are no seasonal celebrations, usually one liturgical color is worn, green.

We celebrated the birth of Christ, we mourned the death of Christ, and we celebrated our own personal resurrection from the dead, with Christ, and through Christ, we have all been reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit. The circle has now been completed, and, we have all come full circle.

Jesus stood knocking at our door, and we very cautiously opened that door and invited him to come in and sit and eat with us. We allowed Jesus to replace that special light that had melted down to almost nothing. We allowed that special room, in our hearts, to have a complete make over.

By virtue of our baptism, we now find ourselves one with Christ. Christ lives in us and we in Christ. As Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians, we are a new creation. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have become one with Christ.

By our baptism, we are all called to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.

By our baptism, we are all called to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

(2)

In short, “We should always preach the gospel, and when necessary use words,” words of wisdom given to us by our Franciscan Brother, St. Francis of Assisi.

We have been mandated by Jesus to love. “Love as I have loved you.” Love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Love came down from heaven, and we have received that love, and that same love lives continually in our hearts.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus asks us (in my opinion) two very important questions concerning the kingdom of God.

The first question that Jesus asks of us is, “With what can WE compare the kingdom of God?”

The one and only thing that WE can use to compare the kingdom of God is with LOVE. That unconditional Love that God has, and shares with each of us.

The kingdom of God is coming together to support our sisters and brothers who are living in danger due to their religious beliefs, sexual orientations or the color of their skin.

The kingdom of God is taking the time to help feed our sisters and brothers who are struggling each day to provide food or obtain food for themselves or for their families.

The kingdom of God is taking the time to visit and pray with our sisters and brothers who are sick either in a hospital or at home, or hold their hand as they make that wonderful transition from this world into the next.

The kingdom of God is taking the time to listen, read, play, and talk with our littlest angels. By taking the time to pray and support our precious little angels in Tanzania obtain an elementary school education.

The kingdom of God is allowing all of our many sisters and brother the freedom to live peaceably, here in our earthly home.

The second question that Jesus asks of us concerning the kingdom of God is, “What parable will WE use for it?”

Isaac is a young man that would stand on the corner of 231st and Broadway everyday

(3)

and ask for money. Isaac would make a lot of noise, and Isaac's appearance was not the best that it could have been, and therefore, no one wanted to stop and put any money in Isaac's cup.

One day, a young man, named Timmy, came along and Isaac held out his cup for Timmy to make a donation. Timmy asked Isaac, "Why are you making so much noise? Do you realize that by making all this noise, you are driving people away?"

Timmy said to Isaac, "I will put this money in your cup, but you have to promise me that you will stop making so much noise." Isaac agreed to be quiet, and so Timmy kept his promise and put money in Isaac's cup.

Each day Isaac would stand on the corner of 231st and Broadway, and ask for money. Each day Isaac would make a lot of noise, but when ever Isaac saw Timmy coming, Isaac would stop making noise, and Timmy would put some money in Isaac's cup each time.

Over a period of time, Isaac and Timmy built up quit a relationship. Isaac got to the point of referring to Timmy as his friend. "Here comes my friend," Isaac would say in a low voice, when ever he saw Timmy coming down the street. "I know that my friend will give me some money."

One day, Isaac asked Timmy after he had put some money in Isaac's cup, "Why are you so nice to me?"

"You know, when you are not here, I still make noise, and fuss with the people, yet when ever you see me, you are still so very nice to me. Why is that? I'm sure you know that I make noise, in fact, I'm sure that you can hear me, and yet, you always put money in my cup. I can't understand - why are you so nice to me?"

Timmy smiled and looked directly into Isaac's eyes, and said, "Never look a gift horse in the mouth."

Isaac has not been seen making noise on the corner of 231st and Broadway in a long time now. Timmy often wonders, as he passes by, what ever happened to his friend Isaac.

Timmy often says a little prayer for Isaac, and asks God to protect him where ever he may be, and leaves a little change there on the corner of 231st and Broadway, for Isaac, just in case he happens to show up.

(4)

Yes, in a few short days, we will be entering into that wonderful season called summer.

A time for lots of fun and games. A time for family picnics, and beach parties. A time for traveling to places near and far. A time where life moves at a much slower pace.

Yes, summer is a time for vacation from school and, in some cases, from church. A time to remember that the kingdom of God still lives in each of us, and is ready, able and willing, to go where ever we go. We are in Christ and Christ is in us.

Yes, summer is a time where most churches will enter into that quiet period, most commonly known as "Ordinary Time." The liturgical color is green. A color that reminds me of growth and life among all of God's creations.

Yes, summer is also a time to invite Jesus along with you, where ever this wonderful season, may take you. Time spent with Jesus is never ordinary, but always extraordinary.

But most of all, this wonderful season called summer, is a time to roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days, and kick back and have, "A Little Talk With Jesus."

Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord!