

Homily for 10/17-10/18

“FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT ONE WHO HAS SIMILARLY BEEN TESTED IN EVERY WAY, YET WITHOUT SIN.

FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWSTODAY’S SECOND READING

TEACHER, GRANT THAT IN YOUR GLORY WE MAY SIT ONE AT YOUR RIGHT AND THE OTHER AT YOUR LEFT. JESUS SAID TO THEM....YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ASKING. FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

BOTH OF THESE SCRIPTURES POINT TO OUR HUMANNESS.... OUR WEAKNESS AS HUMAN BEINGS.....THOSE WEAKNESSES THAT ARE JUST PART OF OUR HUMAN NATURE.....OUR HEBREWS SCRIPTURE SAYS OUR HIGH PRIEST.....JESUS SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR WEAKNESSES.....BECAUSE HE WAS TESTED, JUST LIKE WE ARE.....JUST AS WE WILL BE IN OUR LIVES.

IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK, WHEN JAMES & JOHN ASKED TO SIT ON HIS RIGHT AND HIS LEFT WHEN HE CAME TO GLORY.....JESUS SAID.....”YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ASKING”! AND THEY DIDN’T, DID THEY? BECAUSE THEY WERE JUST BEING HUMAN.....THEY STILL THOUGHT JESUS WAS GOING TO BE A KING..... AS HUMANS UNDERSTAND IT.....AN EXALTED RULER, SITTING ON A THRONE IN JERUSALEM.....BUT JESUS WAS INDEED.....IS INDEED, WE KNOW NOW....A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING....WITH A MUCH DIFFERENT KIND OF KINGDOM.

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THIS REMINDS ME OF MY FAVORITE SAYING.....ONE MY WIFE JOANN AND I USE OFTEN; **“YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW”**

IT’S SO SIMPLE, BUT IT’S AMAZING HOW OFTEN ITS APPROPRIATE .

IT MEANS.....IF YOU DON’T KNOW.....IF THROUGH YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION OR THROUGH DIVINE REVELATIONYOU DON’T KNOW SOMETHING.....YOU JUST DON’T KNOW IT.....YOU ARE NOT GOING TO ACT AS IF YOU DO.....CONFORM TO IT’S MEANING AND MAKE DECISIONS AS IF YOU DO..... YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW AND YOU’VE JUST GOT TO LIVE WITH THAT UNTIL YOU DO KNOW!

CASE IN POINT.....I HAD LUNCH ONCE....WITH ONE MY COMPANINES BIGGEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED CLIENTS AND THE RECENTLY HIRERD SALES REP I HAD ASSIGNED TO HIM. WE MET THIS CLIENT AT A NICE RESTAURANT, AND AS WE BEGAN THE MEAL, MY SALES REP PROPTLY PICKED UP HIS STARCHED WHITE NAPKIN AND TUCKED INTO HIS COLLAR....AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS JOKING, BUT HE THEN PROCEEDED.....APPARENTLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE GAZE OF OUR CLIENT AND MYSELF..... TO PUT ROUGHLY 5 HEAPING TEASPOONS OF SUGAR IN HIS TEA AND THEN, ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORD FOR SPEED WITH A TEA SPOON AS HE STIRRED THE MASS OF SUGAR INTO THE DARK LIQUID....FINISHING WITH A FLOURISH AND A LOUD.....RING.... THAT CAUSED THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT TO LOOK TO OUR TABLE TO SEE WHAT THE EXCEPTIONALLY LOUD SOUND WAS.

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AS THE CLIENT AND I SAT THERE WITH HIS MOUTHS OPEN....I COULD THINK OF NOTHING ELSE TO SAY BUT.....GOOD JOB ON THAT SUGAR JIM.....AND WE ALL HAD A GOOD LAUGH.....

THIS LATER PROMPTED ME TO HOST A PRIVATE DINNER FOR MY SALES STAFF WITH CHEF HANS..... WHO NOT ONLY SERVED OUR MEAL, BUT SECRETLY WATCHED FROM THE WINGS AS ALL PRESENT ATE THEIR MEAL. FOLLOWING THE MEAL, I BROUGHT THE CHEF BACK AND HE CRITIQUED US ON OUR TABLE MANNERS.

AS THE CHEF POINTED OUT THE POOR TABLE MANNERS EXHIBITED BY EACH OF US.....THAT'S RIGHT, ME TOO.....THE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM CAME AS A REVELATION TO US.....WE WERE ALL COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT WE HAD DONE ANYTHING NOT IN KEEPING WITH PROPER DINING ETIQUETTE.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW....

IT WAS THE SAME WITH JAMES AND JOHN....THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE ASKING OF JESUS IN OUR GOSPEL TODAY.....BUT THEY ACTED AS

IF THEY DID.....THIS IS ONE OF THOSE HUMAN WEAKNESSESS THE HEBREWS

SCRIPTURE POINTED OUT. AS A MAN.....FOR EXAMPLE I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT I NEVER HAVE TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS LIKE MY WIFE SAYS I SHOULD.....

AS HUMANS WE OFTEN ACT AS IF WE KNOW.....BECAUSE WE WANT OTHERS TO THINK WE DO....AS A MAN, I DON'T KNOW WHY I THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO FIND MY WAY AROUND WITHOUT DIRECTIONS....IT'S REDICULOUS....AND THANK YOU GOD FOR MY GPS.

(4)

TO THE POINT OF HOW THIS INTERACTS WITH OUR FAITH.....

WHAT IS IT THAT WE MIGHT NOT KNOW....ABOUT GOD....ABOUT OUR FAITH....ABOUT THE PROMISES OF JESUS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THE PART WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING IN OUR OWN SALVATION.

DO WE TRULY KNOW.....DO WE UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD WANTS FROM US.....HAVE WE ASKED HIM? DO WE KNOW.....OR DO WE JUST ACT AS IF WE DO?

THINK ABOUT THIS: AS HUMANS, WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME MAKING SURE WE HAVE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION WE NEED FOR THIS LIFE HERE ON EARTH.....YET HOW MUCH TIME DO WE SPEND TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THAT WILL AFFECT US FOR ETERNITY.....

OF COURSE WE DO PONDER THESE KINDS OF THINGS IN MASS EACH WEEK, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT IF WE SPEND 1 ½ HOURS A WEEK IN MASS.....THEN WE SPEND LESS THAN 1 TENTH OF 1 PERCENT OF OUR TIME DOING SO.

EVEN IF WE TAKE OUT 8 HOURS OF SLEEP A NIGHT AND 40 HOURS A WEEK AT WORK EACH WEEK OUT OF THE AVAILABLE TIME WE HAVE.....WE STILL JUST SPEND 2% OF OUR AVAILABLE, NON SLEEPING, NON WORKING TIME THINKING ABOUT GOD.

THESE ARE ASTOUNDING NUMBERS AREN'T THEY, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE CONSIDER HOW LONG ETERNITY IS COMPARED TO OUR LIVES HERE ON EARTH.....

(5)

THE CONCLUSION I CAME TO IS THIS. THIS IS SOMETHING WE DIDN'T KNOW, AND WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT WE DON'T KNOW.... WHAT WE DON'T KNOW.....

BUT NOW YOU DO KNOW! SO THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE....WHAT DO WE THINK GOD EXPECTS OF US NOW THAT WE REALIZE THIS.....

I DON'T THINK GOD HAS DICTATED A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF TIME WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SPEND GETTING TO KNOW HIM.....

BUT I DO THINK GOD'S DOES WANT TO KNOW US BETTER....HE WANTS US TO KNOW HIM BETTER.....TO KNOW WHAT HE PROMISES....TO UNDERSTAND HIS WORD AND HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE.....IN SHORT, HE WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH US.....AND WE KNOW.....THAT TO CULTIVATE OR IMPROVE ANY REALTIONSHIP WITH ANYONE, INCLUDING GOD....WE'VE GOT TO SPEND TIME WITH THEM.....SO THAT MEANS.....WE NEED TO TALK TO GOD..... THROUGH PRAYER.....ALLOW HIM TO TALK TO US.... BY LISTENING..... DURING THESE PRAYER TIMESITS NOT AS DIFFICULT AS IT MIGHT SOUND.....

DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU JUST SPEND 10 MINUTES A DAY IN PRAYER OR SCRIPTURE READING, THE PERCENTAGE OF TIME YOU DEDICATE TO GOD GOES TO 18%.

(6)

BUT THE NUMBERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT.....I KNOW YOU DO KNOW THAT.
WHAT IS IMPORTANT, IS THIS: THAT WE KNOW GOD IS CALLING ALL OF US TO
THIS RELATIONSHIP.....AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT.....UNLESS WE WANT TO
DO IT.....HE KNOWS THAT ...HE KNOWS US.....HE KNOWS THE EXCUSES WE'RE
GOING TO MAKE BEFORE WE WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR IN THE BACK.....
BUT I WILL PROMISE YOU THIS.....IF YOU'LL JUST START...FORGET THE 10
MINUTES, JUST START WITH 5 MINUTES A DAY, AND JUST PRAY TO GOD.....ASK
HIM FOR ADVICE IN YOUR LIFE, SUPPORT WITH YOUR PROBLEMS, HELP WITH
YOUR TROUBLES AND DON'T FORGET TO THANK HIM FOR THE GOOD THINGS HE
DOES IN YOUR LIFE TOO.....AND.....AND....ASK HIM EVERY NOW AND
THEN.....WHAT HE WANTS FROM YOUWHAT YOU CAN DO FOR HIM.....
MY PROMISE TO YOU IS THAT YOUR LIFE WILL IMPROVE.....YOU'LL GET THE HELP
WITH YOUR PROBLEMS AND TROUBLES....YOU'LL MAKE MORE OF THE RIGHT
DECISIONS.....FIND MORE PEACE IN YOUR LIFE.....YOU'LL APPRECIATE YOUR
FAMILY MORE..IN SHORT.....GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN WAYS YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.
IN THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS TODAY....IT SAYS **“LET
US CONFIDENTLY APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE TO RECEIVE MERCY AND
TO FIND GRACE FOR TIMELY HELP”!**
SO LET'S APPROACH THE THRONE...TOGETHER.....THIS GRACE & MERCY IS GOD'S
PROMISE TO US....HE'S JUST WAITING FOR US TO COME TO HIM IN
PRAYER.....HE'S JUST WAITING FOR US TO ASK.