

Homily for Sunday Mass
September 8, 2019
Year C – Luke 14:25-33
----Father Michael Grant George Cadotte----

As I get to know each of you individually it becomes clear that we come from many different walks of life, have many different views of the world, politics, and what is important to us and yet here we all are in church, in communion with each other expressing and sharing our mutual love of our Lord and Savior, with our God and Creator. As far as our faith goes, we are called to live a life different than a normal person, and we were called by Christ, in today's Gospel reading, to denounce (give up, let go, don't invest in) our worldly lives, but to live a godly life and focus on Christ. After all this is where our joy, love, hope, and peace will find its root and can grow. You are right where you need to be this morning, and God, through this little, but large church of love, extends the heavenly hand of peace and friendship to each of you. Welcome home once again my friends. Come rest as we, together, meet God who I know is right here with us.

In our Wednesday Mass this past week I talked about how Jesus often would teach through his actions not even using words to instruct us. We looked at how, time and time again, we would find Jesus in church (synagogue), or in prayer, or insisting to move from village to village to teach. Through example, Jesus is showing us the path to discipleship: pray and pray often, spend time in God's home – in communion with other believers, and spend time in what I like to refer to as the mission fields (any place outside of the church walls) living your faith to others in sharing your love of Jesus and also living out your Gospel values in your words, actions, and deeds.

Today's Gospel reading continues this 'blueprint' of following Jesus and Luke uses, as an example, a construction theme. We must up our game and take our faith more seriously in these times when so many don't. We need to not just 'believe' but truly live our faith in our lives and, like a good builder, we need to plan and assess those actions regularly.

Plan: We need to find time in our crazy and hectic lives to plan in God-time. Find a devotional or simple prayer time to begin and end your day. Talk to God as your day progresses and keep God on your mind and avoid becoming all consumed with worldly allurements. And don't get all caught up when these plans don't always go as...well...as planned. The first reading today in the Book of Wisdom remind us that, "...scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty..." (WIS 9:16) or, in other words, we are all figuring this thing called life out as we go along. We individually may figure out different things (some easier for one than another) but without God, and the Holy Spirit, there is no perfect person who simply 'gets it.' So, yes, we will make mistakes or fail to live up not only to what we feel God wants for us but even the little things we wanted to do for God.

Assess: So, the second step is to assess our daily lives and how we are doing with trying to keep God consciously with us throughout our day. We need to loop back to planning and give ourselves time to just take a hard-honest look at what we are doing and find little ways to do it different, better, more productive, more in tune with God's calling of us. As you assess, work to find ways to quiet your heart, body, and mind so you can honestly let God have a few moments

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to inspire you, to give you strength, and to help you see your true path. This is critical as there is harsh judgement to learn Christ's ways, to learn of God's plan and then with that knowledge refuse to follow for reasons such as no time, not convenient, not ready to commit, or no room in your life...

Drawer of Cloths: I like to think of this 'making room or time' as if you had a dresser with four drawers and the only cloths you could wear must fit within those drawers. If you never tossed anything out you would be (assuming you grew a bit, like I have since childhood) naked! In order to make room for Christ, we need to clear out space of those worldly things that we no longer need. Those cloths that no longer fit or we no longer wear. We must let those things go in order to let God in.

This letting go of worldly things in our faith's growth can be hard, but even harder is our emotional ties. Jesus, many times, taught to love – even our enemies, so his talk of hating family in Luke's Gospel reading is hyperbole, but it makes an important point. If you want to be a Christian, meaning you believe, love, and follow Jesus, you have to put God first, "...for where your treasure is (that being those things you love and cherish above all others), there will your heart be also" (MT 16:21). We need to put God on the top of our Top Ten list my friends. We need to put God first in our lives – that is what Jesus is teaching here. And, as he often does, this teaching comes with a warning that it will not be easy and the world will resist you, test you, and try to turn you from God at every chance it gets. That is why you need to plan your God-time and continually assess where life's challenges got the better of your and go back and plan new ways to avoid those failings. And God is here to help you if you just take time (plan it in your day my friends) and go to God.

Our world today is not all that different from the world Jesus lived in. True believers are not nearly as many as populations like to profess but I can tell you firsthand God IS with us and God IS listening to our needs. Twice now this year I have prayed at the Solanus Casey center in Detroit for the intercessions of Blessed Fr. Solanus regarding physical pain that I was dealing with and in those moments, one being just last night, I experience near instant healing grace of God. It is not something I can explain other than to say it humbles me and give me great strength and fortitude knowing our God is here. God is here with us now. God is here walking our life journey with each of us. God is listening and sending his angels and saints to watch over us. So, for the love of God, my friends, make time for God in your daily plans and continue to strengthen your relationship with the living God who is with you, even at this very moment.
AMEN

---Citations---

The New American Bible: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010

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