

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – dcn. joe schmitt

We are called to take action

Deuteronomy 30:10 – 14

God is very near to us, open your heart

Colossians 1: 15 – 20

All things were created through and for Christ

Luke 10: 25 – 37

God expands the concept of Neighbor

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Today we heard again a very familiar story. Has anyone here ever heard of the bad Samaritan? Many of our Church fathers have allegorized this passage extensively giving meaning to all of the characters and even the Inn as representing the Church itself where all healing and recovery takes place. But I think the story has some value just on the very surface. Obviously Jesus is the Good Samaritan, but he choose a Samaritan very deliberately I believe because at his time a Samaritan would have been “bottom of the barrel” so to speak. When we are in need of help or assistance we always have our own scripts in mind of how that is to happen; but Jesus is telling us God will take care of us with compassionate love: but God choose how and who will be the bearer of that love. God want us to understand that Love is above the law and God wants us to live that way.

We live in a technological society; we find everything on line these days. So I thought maybe we could download a “love” program on my notebook. So I thought, not being very technology literate myself we might call for some technical assistance:

Tech Support: Yes, ... how can I help you?

Well, after much consideration, I've decided to install Love. Can you guide me through the process?

Tech support: Yes. ... I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready. What do I do first?

Tech support: The first step is to open you Heart. Have you located your heart?

Yes, but there are several other programs running now. Is it okay to install Love while they are running?

Tech support: What programs are running?

Let's see, I have Past hurts, Low self-esteem, grudge and resentment, and pride running right now.

Tech supports: No problem, Love will gradually erase past hurt from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory but it will no longer disrupt other programs. Love will eventually override low self-esteem with a module of its own called high self-esteem. However you will have to completely turn off grudge and resentment. Those programs prevent love from being properly installed. Can you turn those off?

I'm don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

Tech support: With pleasure. Go to your start menu and invoke forgiveness. Do this as many times as necessary until grudge and resentment have been erased.

Okay, done! Love has started installing itself. Is that normal?

Tech support: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other hearts in order to get the upgrades.

Oops! I have an error message already. It says, "Error – program not run on external components." What should I do?

Tech support: Don't worry. It means that the Love program is set up to run on Internal Hearts, but has not yet been run on your Heart. In non- technical terms, it simply means you have to Love yourself before you can love others.

So what should I do?

Tech support: Pull down self-acceptance, then click on the following files: forgive self; realize your worth; and acknowledge your limitations.

Okay, done!

Tech support: Now, copy them to the "My Heart" directory. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching faulty programming. Also, you need to delete Verbose self-criticism from all directories and empty your recycle bin to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Got it! Hey! My heart is filling up with new files. Smile is playing on my monitor and Peace and contentment are copying themselves all over my heart. Is this normal?

Tech support: Sometimes, for others it takes awhile, but eventually everything gets it at the proper time. So love is installed and running. One more thing before we hang up. Love is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everyone you meet. They will in turn share it with others and return some cool modules back to you.

Hey, thank you so much for all the help. You must be God's helper.

As I was instructed you too must keep your heart open and act on your love instincts. All of us need to reflect on what programs are running on our systems that block love from uploading or operating in us: jealousy, anger, addiction, greed, etc.? the Gospel passage reminds us that to love unconditionally is a call to action, as Christ asked us to do the same. I am reminded of the story of a little girl who went to her father all upset about the 3 little boys in the neighborhood. The father asked her what she was so upset about and she explained that the boys had built bird traps to catch the little birds. Her father said, "Well what did you do?" she replied "I prayed that they would not catch any birds." Father asked again, "What else did you do?" and she replied "I prayed that no birds would go into their traps?" Father, went on, "Yes, Yes, but what did you DO?" the Little girl said "Well, while none of the boys were looking I kicked their traps into little pieces." We too must take action to bring about the compassionate love of god to our neighbor, a concept so greatly expanded for us in today's gospel. As Mother Theresa reminds us all, "We are now the hands and feet of Christ" in this world. Go out and do likewise!

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