

July 28-29, 2007

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13

A good conversation is wonderful. In order for a good conversation to flow, the people in conversation usually manifest elements of mutual respect, willingness to engage each other, honesty, self reflection....and perhaps MOST importantly...a willingness to genuinely listen and HEAR what the other person is saying. Within a conversation we share not just with our voices but with our eye-contact, our body posture our physical demeanor and sense of presence. Usually one does not enter into a conversation with a programmed conclusion or ending already planned...good conversations flow and sometimes require days, weeks or even years to be fully explored. Thus, in today's Gospel we hear Jesus instructing his disciples on how to engage God the Father in conversation, in prayer. We hear Jesus encouraging the disciples to not be afraid of speaking freely with God and giving voice to our longings and needs. This is not unlike a child at Christmas asking for every imaginable fantasy and gift under the sun. What requires a mature understanding is that when we, as God's children ask God for this or that...God always hears...and sometimes says 'NO'. Nothing cruel or unusual here, most parents say 'NO' to their kids all the time and in doing so help their children grow in understanding of their wants and desires. Thus Jesus encourages us to speak freely and plainly with him about our longings, our dreams, hopes and needs...and perhaps even our 'wants.' But just because we have asked does not mean that God is compelled to respond exactly as we have requested. What if we, like any child, have asked for something that is inappropriate or wrong, what if we don't understand the bigger picture to which God is calling us to live within? What if that for which we have asked would hurt us or someone else? Most certainly God would not grant our conversational request. At it's core, conversation with God is about not just asking for stuff but about growing in understanding of God, of ourselves, or appreciation for how the world works and perceiving how our gifts are contributing to God's designs. In conversation with God, a wise disciple learns to speak freely with God about more than just what they want or think they need. A wise disciple also learns to listen...especially when God says 'NO', and to not grow petulant and pouty. A wise disciple learns to always ask of God with the words 'but not my will, but yours be done.'

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community on this last weekend of July. Please remember that THIS THURSDAY we return to 'ON THE BORDER-FINE MEXICAN FOOD' over in Town Center for our Corpus Christi Diner's Night. Bring the coupon in the Bulletin with you so that our Building Fund will receive a hefty rebate. The Bulletin has lots of other things as well...so, please...take one with you. As always, as the gift of summer continues into a new month, remember, you are loved. FKB