

**August 25-26, 2007**

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Isaiah 66:18-21**

**Hebrews 12:5-13**

**Luke 13:22-30**

These August weeks present us with some difficult Scripture selections. Last week we heard that Jesus had not so much come to establish peace on earth as much as division. This week the language gets pretty strident: ‘ I do not know where you are from, depart from me all you evildoers.’ Wow, this flies in the face of a wimpy God portrayed by some as always willing to look the other way in order to get people into relationship with himself. What ever happened to ‘come to me all you who thirst and I will refresh you’? Whatever happened to the Good Shepherd seeking out his lost sheep? What is important to note is that in this week’s ‘story’ as told by Jesus, those seeking entry (presumably to heaven?) do not claim to have any close relationship with Jesus...they just highlight that they ‘drank in his company’, ‘he taught in their streets’...which amounts to a pretty superficial and dismissible claim for any sort of serious relationship. And perhaps here lies the crunch...might it be possible that those with closer relationships with God are treated differently than those with negligible relationships? This of course upsets people who think that everyone should be equal...for example (I guess) those that flunk their final exams should be treated the same as those who got A’s? Perhaps everyone in the work place should be paid the same...no matter what type of job they do or how long they have done it? Need we get into the privileges of citizenship and the whole illegal controversy as an example? If everyone is treated equally, why bother developing a relationship with Jesus? Gosh, why bother even trying to be good when being bad is sometimes so much easier and even more satisfying? This week we hear something in Scripture that should not take us by surprise...after all, it is exactly how we treat each other...so why are we surprised to hear it from God? And yet, some people might be distressed to hear that God will actually ‘measure’ us and our futures might be determined by our intangible relationships. Good God, just who does he think he is?! And what does he mean by this ‘first be last’ and ‘last be first’ sort of talk? Doesn’t God know that my life’s actions MERIT and DEMAND premium recognition? So, if eternity doesn’t turn out the way we had planned, what are we going to do, sue God?

August is almost gone...how can this be, only last weekend was Memorial Day and Summer stretched long into the future!? Thank you for coming and worshipping with us this morning. This afternoon beginning at 4:00 p.m. will be our SUMMER SUNDAY SOCIAL ON THE LAWN event. Live music, sumptuous food, classic cars, movies for the kids, lawn games...just bring your own lawn chairs and blankets (we are not setting up any tables or chairs) or folding tables if you desire...and plan on having a great time. \$25 per adult and \$10 per child (over age of 2) gets you everything. Before Labor Day arrives next weekend, let’s celebrate all that Summer has brought us...and do it with traditional Corpus Christi style. You are welcome to bring your own alcoholic beverages for your personal consumption/sharing. Please take a Bulletin with you for news of upcoming parish happenings. As the school backpacks start to appear and the class schedules get posted on the refrigerator, remember, you are loved! FKB