

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY - C - SEPTEMBER, 22, 2013**

**"THE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD ARE MORE PRUDENT IN DEALING WITH THEIR OWN GENERATION THAN ARE THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT"**

**THERE IS A STORY ABOUT A VERY RICH MAN WHO WAS ALSO A CROOK.....HE CHEATED, BRIBED AND EXTORTED IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD AND MAKE A LOT OF MONEY. AND HE MADE A LOT OF MONEY BUT ALSO RUINED A LOT OF PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY.**

**EVENTUALLY, HE DIED AND APPEARED AT THE PEARLY GATES WHERE AN ANGEL WAS STANDING GUARD. THE ANGEL, ON BEHALF OF ST. PETER, BEGAN TO ASK HIM ABOUT HIS LIFE, MAKING AN INITIAL EVALUATION FOR ST. PETER....**

**IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN RATHER GREEDY AND HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY.....DID YOU EVER DO ANYTHING NICE TO ANYONE, HELP ANYONE IN YOUR LIFE?**

**WELL, THE MAN ANSWERED, ONCE I GAVE \$5 TO HOMELESS PERSON SO HE COULD GET SOMETHING TO EAT....**

**THAT'S GOOD, SAID THE ANGEL....DID YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE....**

**I ALSO GAVE \$10 ONCE TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.....**

**THAT'S GOOD TOO.... WAIT HERE A MINUTE I NEED TO MAKE A REPORT TO ST. PETER AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW THE VERDICT....**

**THE ANGEL WENT TO ST. PETER AND TOLD HIM THE MAN'S STORY....THIS MAN SPENT HIS LIFE GETTING RICH AND CHEATING AND DISREGARDING OTHER PEOPLE....BUT HE ALSO ONCE GAVE A HOMELESS PERSON \$5 AND**

*THEN HE ALSO GAVE \$10 TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.....*

*ST. PETER THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT AND THEN SAID: GIVE HIM BACK HIS \$15 AND "TELL HIM TO GO TO HELL"*

*I THINK THAT IS PRETY FUNNY.....*

*THE CONCLUSION IS NOT UNEXPECTED.....WHAT PETER SAID IS FUNNY - BUT IT IS NOT UNEXPECTED....*

*AS OPPOSED TO THE STORY IN TODAY'S GOSPEL -*

*THE CONCLUSION IS SURPISING.....UNEXPECTED*

*IT IS ALSO ABOUT A MAN WHO IS GREEDY AND CHEATS MANY..... BUT THE CONCLUSION IS SUPRISING - THE CONCLUSION IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED - IT IS VERY SURPRISING - AS IS OFTEN THE CASE IN JESUS' STORIES...*

*JESUS POINTS TO THIS MAN AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF CLEVERNESS....*

*RESILIENCE AND RESOURCEFULNESS, CREATIVITY, & INVENTIVENESS*

*JESUS IS VERY IMPRESSED WITH HOW THIS MAN MAKES SURE THAT HE*

*NOT ONLY SURVIVES BUT PRESUMABLY FLOURISHES AND MAKES PLANS*

*FOR HIS FUTURE IN THE FACE OF THIS CRISIS - I.E. HE HAS JUST BEEN*

*FIREED AND IS NOW UNEMPLOYED.....*

*IN SPITE OF THAT SETBACK HE GOES TO THE DEBTORS AND MAKES A*

*DEAL WITH THEM....HE FORGIVES SOME OF THE DEBT, IF YOU WILL, HE*

*LOWERS WHAT THEY OWE TO THE MASTER....*

*ESSENTIALLY, HE CHEATS HIS MASTER ONCE AGAIN OUT OF WHAT HE DESERVES.....*

***AND NOW THEY ARE HIS FRIENDS AND PRESUMABLY WILL HELP HIM  
OUT - STEALS FROM MASTER***

***A LITTLE BIT LIKE A POLITICIAN WHO IS IMPEACHED AND THEN.....  
BEFRIENDS COMPANIES THAT DEPEND ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS  
AND UTILIZES HIS EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS AND FINDS HIMSELF A  
NEW LIVELIHOOD.....***

***BUT THE MAN DOES NOT THROW UP HIS HANDS AND GIVE UP  
COMPLETELY DOES HE - WHEN THINGS DON'T GO HIS WAY?  
AND THIS, OF COURSE, IS A PROBLEM OF HIS OWN MAKING.....***

***HE DOES NOT CASTIGATE HIMSELF, BEMOAN HIS MISTAKE -- WOE IS ME  
!  
I CAN DO NOTHING RIGHT!***

***PARALYZE HIMSELF OR FLEE THE SITUATION***

***HE IS DEFINITELY BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE, AS WE SAY...  
HE ASSESSES THE SITUATION - SEES WHAT HE CANNOT DO, E.G. DIG  
DITCHES AND COMES UP WITH CREATIVE TYPE RESPONSE SOMETHING  
THAT HE CAN DO TO REMEDY THE SITUATION....***

***JESUS IS FINDING THE BEST IN THE WORST.....***

***AND BEYOND THAT, I BELIEVE HE IS ENCOURAGING HIS FOLLOWERS TO  
EMULATE THIS RESILIENCE, THIS CLEVERNESS, THE CREATIVITY -***

***HE IS NOT RECOMMENDING THE INITIAL INCOMPETENCE OR  
SUBSEQUENT DISHONESTY, I'M SURE***

***HE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD ARE MORE PRUDENT IN DEALING WITH  
THEIR OWN GENERATION THAN ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT.....***

*YOU HAVE TO LOVE THE OPENNESS OF THIS MAN, WE CALL JESUS AND BELIEVE HE IS ALSO DIVINE....*

*HE IS ABLE TO SEE THE BEST IN THE WORST.....*

*HE IS ABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH A PERSON WHO FINDS HIMSELF, HERSELF BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE - AS WE SAY...*

*NO WONDER HE RELATED SO WELL WITH SINNERS.....*

*HE WAS CLEARLY MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SINNERS THAN THOSE WHO DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE SINNERS...*

*HE DEFINITELY WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THOSE WHO FELT THEY WERE SELF-SUFFICIENT, THOSE WHO WERE SMUG ABOUT LIFE...*

*HE RELATED MUCH BETTER WITH THOSE WHO WERE WILLING TO BE VULNERABLE....ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS...*

*IN OTHER WORDS, HE KNOWS THAT LIFE IS A LOT MORE GREY THAN WE OFTEN WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE....*

*HE WOULD AGREE WITH THE SAYING:*

*EVERY SAINT HAS A PAST AND EVERY SINNER HAS A FUTURE.....*

*CLEARLY, OF ALL JESUS' PARABLES, THIS ONE IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.....BUT STILL VALUABLE....*

*FOR EXAMPLE, HE GOES ON TO SAY.....*

*"THE PERSON WHO IS TRUSTWORTHY IN VERY SMALL MATTERS IS ALSO TRUSTWORTHY IN GREAT ONES; AND THE PERSON WHO IS DISHONEST IN VERY SMALL MATTERS IS ALSO DISHONEST IN GREAT ONES"*

*IT IS ANOTHER VERSION OF THE BUDDHIST SAYING:*

***THE WAY WE DO ANYTHING IS THE WAY WE DO EVERYTHING.....***

***IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE MADE A CERTAIN COMMITMENT TO LIVE***

***OUR LIFE IN A CERTAIN WAY AND OUR LIFE IS FAIRLY CONSISTENT...***

***THE WAY WE DO THINGS IS PRETTY CONSISTENT WHETHER IT BE THE***

***WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE, THE WAY WE DEAL WITH SETBACKS, THE WAY***

***WE WORK AND THE WAY WE PLAY.....***

***LET US PRAY IN THIS EUCHARIST FOR WHAT WE SEE IN JESUS....***

***THE ABILITY TO SEE THE BEST IN OTHERS....***

***AND LET US PRAY FOR THE SAME CLEVERNESS, RESILIENCE IN THE***

***FACE OF ADVERSITY THAT WE SEE JESUS PRAISING IN HIS STORY***

***TODAY...***

***OK - HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED HOW LIFE IS MORE GREY THAN BLACK***

***AND WHITE LET ME END WITH A CONFESSION....***

***THIS HOMILY IS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE I GAVE A FEW YEARS AGO***

***ON THE SAME GOSPEL....***

***ON THURSDAY I HAD THE FUNERAL OF MY BROTHER IN LAW IN***

***COLUMBUS AND AS A RESULT I WAS TOTALLY DRAINED EMOTIONALLY***

***AND PHYSICALLY - MUCH TO MY SURPRISE...***

***SO WHEN I WENT TO PREPARE TODAY'S HOMILY AND LOOKED AT WHAT I***

***SAID PREVIOUSLY I KNEW I COULDN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING ANY***

***BETTER - AND REFLECTIONS STILL REPRESENT MY BEST ATTEMPT....***

***SO, IN THAT SENSE IT IS MY ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT THE MESSAGE OF  
THE PARABLE AND BE CREATIVE AND RESILIENT  
WHEN I FOUND MYSELF BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE...  
BY THE WAY - LET ME ALSO THANK YOU FOR ALL THE EXPRESSIONS OF  
SUPPORT I HAVE RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF MY BROTHER-IN-LAWS  
DEATH - THE THIRD ONE IN A LITTLE OVER A YEAR.....  
ON SOMEWAYS IN SEEMS SURREAL.....  
MY FAMILY IS STILL TRYING TO ADJUST TO THIS NEW REALITY...  
THANK YOU***