

TWELFTH SUNDAY - A - JUNE 25, 2017

THESE DAYS I HEAR AND READ A LOT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORY - ESPECIALLY AS WE GROW OLDER

ONE THING THAT I FIND FASCINATING ABOUT REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING FOR ALL OF US, REGARDLESS OF OUR AGE IS THAT ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO INSURE THAT WE FORGET SOMETHING IS TO HAVE SOMETHING ELSE INTRODUCED AND DISTRACT US WHEN WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF FOCUSING ON THAT PARTICULAR TOPIC....

E.G. IF YOU ARE HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE AND AGREE TO DO SOMETHING AND THEN YOU ARE INTERRUPTED AND GET ENGROSSED IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION AND TOPIC THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE YOU WILL FORGET ABOUT THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT - ESP.. IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO WRITE IT DOWN.

THAT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US LITURGICALLY...

TODAY IS CALLED THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME AND WE RETURN TO THE CONTINUOUS READINGS OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW - AND YOU HAVE PROBABLY FORGOTTEN THAT WE WERE READING THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW BACK IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY - JANUARY 15TH TO FEBRUARY 26TH - 2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME TO EIGHT SUNDAY OF ORDINARY - AFTER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF LENT -

THEN LENT AND EASTER AND PENTECOST HAVE HAD SPECIAL READINGS...

AS WELL AS THE LAST TWO SUNDAYS -

TRINITY SUNDAY AND CORPUS CHRISTI

***ALL OF THAT INTERRUPTED US, IF YOU WILL, IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR
READING OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW....***

***NOW WE SKIP AHEAD TO THE 12TH SUNDAY TO MAKE SURE WE END UP
WITH THE 34TH SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER - THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE
LITURGICAL YEAR - CHRIST THE KING - BEFORE BEGINNING AGAIN
WITH THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NEW YEAR - YEAR B - NEW GOSPEL
SO TODAY WE RETURN TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW -***

***AND WE WILL CONTINUE EVERY SUNDAY WITH A GOSPEL READING FROM
MATTHEW UNTIL NOVEMBER AND THE END OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR -
AT THANKSGIVING TIME***

***WE TAKE UP THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW THIS TIME WITH CHAPTER 10
AND WE HEAR JESUS TELLING HIS APOSTLES: "FEAR NO ONE"***

***"FEAR NO ONE" - HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ME AND MY MESSAGE
OF COURSE, THE MESSAGE TO NOT BE AFRAID IS A COMMON ONE IN
SCRIPTURE - APPEARING SOME 365 TIMES - GIVING US ONE FOR
EVERYDAY OF THE YEAR - SO IT MUST BE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED AND
THE EXPERIENCE OF FEAR AND ANXIETY MUST BE PRETTY COMMON
THIS EXHORTATION TO NOT BE AFRAID IS VERY POINTED HOWEVER -
DO NOT BE AFRAID OF HUMAN OPPOSITION.....***

***OBVIOUSLY JESUS' OVERALL MESSAGE WAS GREETED AT THE TIME WITH
GREAT DEAL HOSTILITY AND THE APOSTLES WERE UNDERSTANDABLY
ANXIOUS ABOUT BEING SENT OUT TO PREACH ON THEIR OWN...***

SO, I SEE THIS SOMEWHAT LIKE A LOCKER ROOM PEP TALK BY THE COACH -

AND JESUS IS TELLING HIS DISCIPLES TWO SIMPLE THINGS:

FEAR NO ONE AND PREACH BOLDLY

IT MAY BE A SIMPLE MESSAGE BUT IMPORTANT AND CHALLENGING

THE REAL CHALLENGE OFTEN ISN'T BELIEVING THAT GOD EXISTS....

BUT BELIEVING IN OUR HEART OF HEARTS THAT OUR GOD ACTUALLY CARES FOR US - FOR YOU AND FOR ME

AND CARES DEEPLY FOR US....GIVING US THE CONFIDENCE WE NEED

SO WE HEAR JESUS ASSURING US, "ARE NOT TWO SPARROWS SOLD FOR A SMALL COIN. YET NOT ONE OF THEM FALLS TO THE GROUND WITHOUT YOUR FATHER'S KNOWLEDGE.

EVEN ALL THE HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE COUNTED.

SO DO NOT BE AFRAID; YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS"

NOW ADMITTEDLY, IT IS BECOMING A MUCH EASIER TASK TO COUNT THE HAIRS OF MY HEAD AS THEY RECEDE SLOWLY

AND I COUNT THEM AS THEY FALL INTO THE SINK IN RECORD NUMBERS ON A DAILY BASIS

HOWEVER, OUR CREATOR IS ABLE TO COUNT WHILE THEY ARE STILL TOGETHER UP THERE - ACCORDING TO JESUS' STATEMENT....

HE MAKES HIS POINT WELL DOESN'T HE?

I AM KNOWN BY ANOTHER MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY THAN I EVEN KNOW MYSELF.....

***YOU ARE KNOWN BY ANOTHER MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY THAN
YOU EVEN KNOW YOURSELF***

***I AM LOVED BY ANOTHER MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY THAN I
LOVE MYSELF...***

***YOU ARE LOVED BY ANOTHER MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY THAN
YOU LOVE YOURSELF***

DO YOU HAVE ANYONE IN YOUR LIFE WHO EVEN APPROACHES THAT?

***THAT IS TOO MUCH TO EXPECT OF ANOTHER PERSON, ISN'T IT?
EXPECTING THAT CAN RUIN AN ADULT RELATIONSHIP, IN FACT...***

***IT DOES SOUND A LITTLE BIT LIKE A REALLY GOOD PARENT THOUGH
DOESN'T IT?***

***A GOOD PARENT KNOWS THE CHILD MORE INTIMATELY THAN THE CHILD
KNOWS ITSELF***

***A GOOD PARENT LOVES THE CHILD MORE CLOSELY THAN THE CHILD IS
CAPABLE OF LOVING ITSELF...***

***OF COURSE, WE YEARN TO BE KNOWN INTIMATELY, TO BE LOVED MORE
INTIMATELY THAN WE LOVE OURSELVS.....***

.WE HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THAT.

TO BE KNOWN MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY...

THAN I KNOW MYSELF

TO BE LOVED MORE CLOSELY, MORE INTIMATELY...THAN I LOVE MYSELF

AND AS A MATTER OF FACT WE ARE....

***THAT IS JESUS' MESSAGE FOR US TO ABSORB, CONTEMPLATE, TO LET
SINK IN....TO EMBRACE...TO BELIEVE....TO EXPERIENCE***

I AM KNOWN, I AM LOVED, I AM CARED FOR MORE INTIMATELY....

THAN I KNOW AND LOVE MYSELF....

THAT REALIZATION WILL ALLOW US TO LIVE MORE FREELY, TO LIVE MORE BOLDLY, SPEAK MORE FREELY, MORE BOLDLY....

THEREFORE, BUILDING UPON THAT....

LET ME SAY WITH AS BOLDLY AS POSSIBLE THAT THIS COMING WEEK IS A CRITICAL WEEK IN OUR COUNTRY'S ONGOING DEBATE AND DECISION MAKING CONCERNING HEALTH CARE IN OUR COUNTRY....

ESP IN THE SENATE

I CALLED OUR CONGRESSMAN THIS PAST WEEK, TO TELL HIM MY POSITION ON HEALTH CARE AND THE NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO HEALTH CARE AND THE COMMON GOOD

THIS IS A COMPLICATED ISSUE TO BE SURE, BUT THE HEALTH NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE ARE OBVIOUS, I BELIEVE, AND ARE AT STAKE..

HOPEFULLY, IT WOULD ALSO BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR YOU AND ONE IN WHICH YOU WOULD CONSIDER STANDING UP FOR AND SPEAKING OUT BOLDLY, IF YOU WILL....

IN ANY CASE, HOPEFULLY EACH ONE OF US WILL GO AWAY FROM OUR TIME TOGETHER THIS MORNING, OUR EUCHARIST, NO MATTER OUR POSITION ON HEALTH CARE, WITH A DEEPER REALIZATION THAT WE ARE KNOWN AND LOVED AND CARED FOR, MORE INTIMATELY THAN WE ARE CAPABLE OF KNOWING AND LOVING AND CARING FOR OURSELVES WE WILL REMEMBER AND BE ABLE TO RECALL...

"ALL THE HAIRS OF OUR HEAD ARE NUMBERED.... ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR....

SO, DO NOT BE AFRAID.....YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO ME"