

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Lent 4
Monday, March 12, 2018

Year 2/Cycle B
2Chron. 36: 14-16, 19-23/ Jn. 3:14-21

Are You Satisfied?

I guess the most difficult task as a human being is to learn to be completely satisfied. If we ask anyone at any point in time, "Are you satisfied with the way things are going in your life? Nine out of ten people will reply 'NO'. The rich are not satisfied-they want more. The poor desire the life of the rich. The sick search for healing, the lonely desire company, the angry seek their revenge. The young wish they were older and the old wish they were 20 years younger. We can probably say that we spend most of our lives desiring what does not exist for us. The 4th week of Lent we celebrate Laetare Sunday, as we are half way through Lent and it is time to see what our Ash Wednesday's commitments and promises look like today... The readings give some thought to our track record of satisfaction as human beings. In truth our record 'sucks'.

From the beginning, God took His time to create man and then, a very thoughtful creation of woman, giving them everything imaginable to eat and enjoy. Not satisfied the desire was to find out the taste of the fruit on the only tree they could not eat. *Hmmm*. In the times after, not satisfied, it became a competition among the early people to build a tower to reach heaven. Why? Who knows? Not satisfied with staying on solid ground, probably! In captivity, God's Chosen People, cried out to Him with tears and lamentation. He came to deliver them through Moses.

Then Moses had the experiences of ten lifetimes. He obeyed God, confronts Pharaoh and despite the odds, God's hand prevailed and the mightiest ruler of that time sent these people packing out of Egypt, with everything they could take to satisfy them. God's Chosen people complained about the lack of water, complained about hunger, then complained about the

monotony of the food; and then complained about the fact that Moses left them without a god, (*when he, Moses went to speak to God*) and they had to see an image for them to worship, so they made a golden calf. God left these people to wander in the desert for 40 years, but He brought them to the land He promised. Yes, they fought for the land but God was with them. Then comes the reading today from the Book of Chronicles.

*“Early and often the LORD, the God of their ancestors,
sent his messengers to them...” (2Chr. 36:15)*

God did not abandon, stubborn and dissatisfied man, as he was His prized creation, He wanted man to live and love.

“He had compassion on his people and his dwelling place.” (2Chr. 36:15)

God allowed His Chosen People to build a temple where He would stay with them and reside among them. So the Jews had the presence of God in their midst. Yet, satisfaction could not be achieved.

*“But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words,
and scoffed at his prophets,..” (2Chr. 36:16)*

God allowed the worse to occur, and then, there was reason for dissatisfaction.... yet we tend to forget it was of the people’s own making. Yes, strangers captured them and held them.

*“Then he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans,
who killed their young men with the sword in their own sanctuary.” (2Chr. 36:17)*

Why is our dissatisfaction ongoing in this world? God has given to us the most important aspect of our humanity ‘Free Will’. God will not force us or bully us; though conditions will appear at times to work against everything we as humans desire. Yet it was the same God who provided a way to make reparation for our every human error, the purest sacrifice,

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (Jn. 3:16)*

God intention was for us to love, since the beginning of time... we needed to love Him, Our Creator; and then to love those who are around us. God’s request was simple. He wants us to obey Him not out of fear, but out of our love for Him and our willingness to please Him with our love. Unless we give up some of our need for personal satisfaction, we will always find our needs unfulfilled. God’s does not need satisfaction, but we need God to be satisfied with us. Our constant need to be

satisfied with our appearance, our money, our power, our achievements, our children, our careers will never end if our focus remains there. Our major concern should be to focus our life towards Him, as this is the promise for us.

“Everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (Jn.3:16)

We seek personal satisfaction which eludes us throughout our lives and what God freely gives us we turn our backs upon. Our satisfaction in this world will never be attained by the urgent seeking of our needs and desires; when we put these aside and replace them with the urgency of pleasing our Creator as He has done for us, we will find peace. Jesus came to bring light to our lives and to take away our self-seeking attitude and replace it with a deep and abiding trust and love for the God who gave His Only Son for us.

"The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light because their works were evil." (Jn. 3:19)

During these last weeks of Lent let us lift ourselves from the darkness of self-satisfaction, our wills, our comforts and instead turn to the light. Jesus is the way and the light, keeping our eyes on Him will dampen our constant need for satisfaction, what we have been graciously given by God will be enough and our minds will rest in Him who has provided us with our every need. Are you satisfied?

May we have a heart and an urgency to pray, to fight against child molestation, sexual exploitation of children, enslavement of children in our society, may we make a real effort to educate ourselves to reach out and help. May this season of fasting lead us away from self-satisfaction to seeking Jesus.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by

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