

Sunday, July 3, 2022 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Second Reading: Galatians 6:1-16

1 - If anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.

It takes the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives if we are going to be able to be helpful rather than judgmental when another person slips and falls.

Cf. Paul and John Mark

Acts 13: 13 – Then Paul and his companions came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 15: 37-39 – Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company.

2 Timothy 4: 11 – Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in the ministry.

When have you been like Mark? When have you been like Paul? When have you been like Barnabas?

2 - Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Peter 5: 7 – Cast all your cares on him, for he cares for you.

7 - Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.

When in your life have you experienced this to be true?

Where do you see this taking place – in your community, in our country, in the world?

9 - So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

When have you grown weary in doing what is right? What has helped you in those situations?

11 - See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!

Acts 9: 3 – As he was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

Acts 9: 8 – Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing.

Acts 23: 2-5 – The high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. At this Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!" Those standing nearby said, "Do you dare to insult God's high priest?" Paul said, "I did not realize that he was high priest."

Galatians 4: 15 – Had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.

2 Corinthians 12: 7 – To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me.

14 - May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

What does it mean to you for the world to be crucified to you, and for you to be crucified to the world?

Philippians 1: 21 – For me to live is Christ and to die is gain – I win either way

15 - For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!

It is not what I do or do not do, but what God does and has done.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

1-2 - After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

There never are enough people willing to help out at church, and with the number of pastors retiring far exceeding the number graduating from seminary, there is a massive clergy shortage coming. But what does Jesus tell us is the first thing we need to do? We need to get down on our knees and pray.

In our Gospel lesson for last Sunday (Luke 8: 26-39), the man who had been delivered from a legion of demons naturally wanted to go with Jesus. But Jesus told him to stay. "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you" (v. 39). He would be most effective witnessing to people he already knew and who knew him before he was delivered.

Our Gospel lesson for this Sunday gives us a four-step plan on how we can share our faith in Jesus with people – like our neighbors.

1. Bless them

5-6 - Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" If anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person. But if not, your blessing will return to you.

2. Develop a relationship with them

7-8 - Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you.

3. Heal the sick

9 - Cure the sick who are there.

Even if God does not perform a miracle through your prayers, people will usually be touched deeply because you cared enough for them to pray for them.

4. Share the Gospel

9 - Say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Perhaps you could tell your own personal story.

One way to do that is to share – what your life was like before you met Jesus, how you came to meet Jesus, what your life has been like since you met Jesus.