

21st Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

- 2nd reading is one of the most controversial “Wives be submissive”
 - Submissive vs Subservient Experience
 - Truth is EPH is not about wives
 - Truth is EPH is about families AND husbands
 - 1st line reads “Brothers & Sisters be subordinate to one another out of love for Christ”
 - “Husbands love your wives as Christ loves the Church” |RELATIONSHIP
 - “Love your wife as you love your own body” ---- |Two Are Made One
 - “He who loves his wife – loves himself” |Husband <=> Wife
 - Spouse abuse law – talk about Spousal Rape
 - Issue isn’t so much about what the law says
 - Issue is that we need a law like this in the 1st place
 - Our love, as husbands, as wives, as Christians should be without compromise
- *In a nutshell, that is what all today’s readings are about*
- JPII’s 1st trip to US as Pope, magazines/newspapers carried articles about US Church
 - They called the US Church – cafeteria Catholics
 - American Catholics tend to pick and choose what they want to believe
 - The articles were offensive because they were right!
 - I’m a Catholic but I don’t believe abortion is wrong
 - I’m a Catholic but I really don’t need to go EVERY Sunday
 - I’m a Catholic but I really don’t believe in marriage anymore
 - Many people want to simplify their life – *by compromising the truth*
 - They want to do that by making our beliefs less demanding
 - But Deacon it’s so hard – *can’t Church cut us some slack?*
 - THIS ISN’T NEW
 - **That’s what was happening in today’s Gospel**
 - “this is a hard saying” and they left – what did JC say
 - “Are you going to leave too?” (*didn’t cut them any slack*)
 - Truth has nothing to do with popularity or being in the majority
 - Truth comes from Jesus Christ alone
 - We know that many of us are tempted to follow the crowd
 - We know that we tend to fall for the lies of the world (Christianity problem)
 - If following Jesus makes us a problem – then lets be a problem
- Joshua in 1st reading wasn’t concerned about the majority or whether all of Israel chose Lord
 - “As for me and my house, we choose the Lord” **What about your house?**
- Peter made his confession of faith & didn’t go with the crowd
 - “To whom shall we go – You have the words of everlasting life. We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God” – Everybody else left – the 12 stayed.
- Jesus says they turned away due to lack of faith – the price of following Jesus was too high!
 - If I follow JC I have to change my life & they turn away.
 - We have a choice – we can be like Joshua – we can be like Peter – or follow crowd
 - We can live with Jesus – or join the crowd without Him
 - There are times its hard to follow Jesus
 - Following Jesus means embracing moral lifestyle
 - Being Christian means being different from rest of society
- Nov 2008 – a body was found standing upright in Meriden CT
 - Standing upright, leaning against the Church wall, appearing asleep - but died standing up
 - Let me ask – ‘Could this man be you?’
 - Is my body going through the motions while my heart is elsewhere?
 - “Am I, spiritually speaking, dead or alive?”
- Can we be more than Church Goers and become Church Doers?
- How can we take Jesus out of our Church & into our school – our job – our home
 - Because where we go – Jesus goes

- We are the heart, hands, feet and voice of Jesus
- Let me tell you the story of Sr. Anne – she died last year and her obituary said:
 - She started getting her RN degree, then MS in Nursing Administration and ran the hospitals
 - After years pushing papers – she stepped out of the establishment
 - Sr. Anne became known as ‘Flutterby’ – a Christian clown
 - She’d go to the Children’s Ward at hospitals and make sick children laugh
 - Ministered in US, Ghana, Barbados and Trinidad
 - Used puppets, and balloon animals and made lives better.
 - Sr. Anne realized God wanted more of her than hospital administration
 - So, she gave up her office for puppets and balloons
 - Kids laughed at her and she laughed with the kids
 - She became heart, hands, and feet of Jesus
 - We can become heart, hands and feet of Jesus
 - By loving our wives – By loving our husbands
 - By loving our children – By loving our neighbor
 - By NOT following the crowd & loving one another
 - What we bring is the love of God we have already received
 - For we are God’s beloved - & receiving that love we bring it to others