

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – B

- Clean cup/Dirty cup – which would you use?
  - Pharisee is concerned with externals (Tassels, Bowing, Washing)
  - Jesus is concerned with internals of faith
- 1<sup>st</sup> reading Moses says
  - “This is law – you shall not add to them – you shall not subtract from them
  - By Jesus’ time they had all sort of new rules
    - Where in the 10 Commandments does it say ‘wash before dinner?’
    - Now, rules for When/How to wash pots, dishes, jugs, cups, kettles
    - Moses said “This is the law – don’t add – don’t subtract”
  - So when they attack Jesus’ disciples JC fights back
  - Jesus says the things that come from within can defile us
    - Evil thoughts, envy, deceit, greed – come from within
    - What else comes from within? – *Worship*
- *Worship in Greek is SEBASMA & also translated as Religion*
  - So, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading today says
    - “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God” is  
(1) care for orphans, widows, (2) keeping yourself unstained by the world
    - What it means is Worship that is pure and undefiled before God” is  
“(1)care for orphans, widows, and (2)keeping yourself unstained”
    - Love God and Love Neighbor
    - We worship by how we live – We worship by what we DO.
  - If how I live is worship – why come to church?
    - “Deacon, I’m bored there anyway – why not just be a good person and worship that way?” Why do I need to come to Church?
      - JAMES “Welcome the Word that has been planted in you and is able to save your soul” **What saves? WORD**
      - “Faith comes by hearing and hearing what?” Word of God
      - Where does that happen? IN CHURCH
        - **We come to church to hear THE WORD**  
(that’s able to save your soul)
        - **Preachers have obligation to speak THE WORD**
        - **YOU have an obligation to do something with it**

So let me preach a little more:

- James says “Be doers of the Word and not hearers only”
- Let me explain why you get bored in Church.
  - If all you do is sit and listen – and never apply what you hear to your life
  - You reach a point of saturation (*sponge that taken it all in & not been squeezed*)
  - The problem isn’t Church or the Word
    - ***The Word was meant to be acted upon***
    - You’re bored because you’re saturated
      - You can’t be hearers only – you have to be doers!
- Words are interesting – especially if you want to understand scripture
  - If I said – We need to care for unemployed – you have an image (laid off person)
  - If I said – We need to care for hobos – (unemployed) but it adds meaning.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading is like that – it says “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only” (English)

(Greek)

**HEARERS** = AKROATES – people who audit a class rather than take credit for it.

**ONLY** people who just sit in to listen with no intention of using it

- Lectures of the time – informative & entertaining
    - (follow my favorite speaker from town to town)
    - (be seen by others)
    - (wanted to be entertained)
    - (no intention of using what I hear)
- Does this describe our Church?

**DOERS** = POIETAS – the word used for POET (carrying with it the idea of creativity)

*Doing something with style – with class – with creativity*

So – when we hear God’s Word and we want to apply it in our lives – **get creative!**

The Word of God was meant to be acted upon

To be DOERS of the WORD don’t be afraid to get creative in how we live it.

**CCD KIDS – feed the hungry, clothe the naked**

How do we be doers of Word? Benedictine Motto = ORA ET LABORA – Pray & Work.

**Example of Fr. Gabriel (Aug 30 death day)**

(You need both)

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl that was awfully upset.

The boy down the street had been building traps to catch birds.

“It’s OK now mummy, I took care of it.” Her daughter said:

“I remember what the priest said at church last week about God always listening to our prayers, so first I prayed that he would stop making the traps”.

“Then I prayed that the traps wouldn’t work”.

“Then I prayed that the birds would stay away from the traps”.

“Then I smashed the traps to pieces”.

Part of a healthy vibrant spiritual life includes action. (ORA ET LABORA)

Moses heard God at the burning bush. He could have spent the rest of his life praying in front of it but he had to get up, go to Egypt, and confront Pharaoh if Israel was to be free.

Martin Luther King could have spent his life in prayer for an end to segregation, but it was prayer and action that bore fruit. Mother Theresa of Calcutta could have spent her life in solitary prayer, but it was prayer and action that created a ministry that now spans the globe serving the needs of the poorest of the poor.

Each of us has needs.

Some of us will see these needs and work night and day **BUT** never pray about it.

**(They only focus on the outside of the cup)**

Others will see these very same needs and pray, **BUT** never lift a finger to do anything.

**(They only focus on the inside of the cup)**

Work, combined with prayer however, adds a little ‘divine elbow grease’ – and that’s got to help.

That is how we become clean on the inside and on the outside