

### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time A

Let me tell you a story about uncle Henry's farm

I show up, sophomore in HS, during haying season - new work boots, overalls  
Setting a fence post Arnold drops a post in a puddle – mud splashes all over me  
We got back to work but later - Henry “Did you do that on purpose?” YUP  
We worked faster once he wasn't worried about his new overalls

- MT's Gospel Jesus tells the Apostles the “Conditions of Discipleship”
  - Whoever loves Mother/Father more than me is not worthy of me
  - Whoever loves Son/Daughter more than me is not worthy of me
  - Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me
    - Pretty radical stuff
    - What is getting in the way of your relationship with J?
    - Arnold could see that my concern for my new overalls was slowing us down – Getting in the way.
      - What is getting in the way of your relationship with J?
      - J says whatever it is, chuck it – even if its family.
      - J says to follow me, take up your cross
        - (First time “CROSS” is in MT)
          - Its about OUR crosses in life - not His
- In the First Reading the married couple that was kind to Elisha had no son.

That was their cross to bear

I am sure they wanted one

I am sure they had prayed and asked God for one – instead God sends them Elisha  
As prayerful people they recognize a prophet – so they are kind, charitable  
Eventually they build a room, then add desk, bed, chair and a lamp  
Their prayer PLUS their charity – AND *what they do* – is rewarded.  
They never ask Elisha for a son – but because of their charity -

When Elisha heard they had no son he tells them, “next year you will have a son”

He speaks with confidence BECAUSE of HIS relationship with God

Do we have that kind of confidence WHY NOT?

- God not only hears our prayers, He sees our actions, how we live.

– what we do matters!

- We are here at St C's
  - What we DO here makes a difference
  - We come together and pray – we are a people of faith
  - Our two readings today teach us that a relationship with GOD:
    - Is not just about prayer
    - It includes our getting rid of evil in our lives
    - But it's also about doing good
    - Christianity is not only about keeping your overalls clean
    - It also means we have to get to work and live like the Christians we claim to be