

9th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A

I bet every family here today has rules

I had to make my bed before I could leave for school

I had to do my homework before I could go play

I had to take a bath before I went to bed

EVEN NOW - Ginni has rules for me in the rectory

WHY? Well some rules kept me safe (like playing in the street)

Some rules helped me learn right from wrong

Some just made living together as a family easier

God has rules too:

DT – Moses says “I set before you a blessing and a curse”

A blessing if you obey the commandments

A curse if you do not (My mother it was the hairbrush if you did not)

Moses is talking about the same commandments Jesus has been explaining:

“You have heard it said -- but I tell you”

OT laws were quit specific (thou shall not kill – period!)

JC’s explanation goes to the heart (don’t even get angry)

Jesus says let your external actions of life reflect your internal attitudes of heart

So if you are full of love – *you don’t return hatred with hatred*

Christians show love to our enemies

Our pray is not a show for others, but an expression of a real love for God

Jesus is the rock we build on – & the Christian attitude towards life He plants in us

Sometimes I meet people who give mixed messages to their children

“As long as you live under my house --- When you’re on your own ---“

(Which means these rules aren’t really important)

J says “love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you”

No matter where you live – No matter who’s roof you live under

God’s rules are not negotiable!

Non-Christian attitudes (like taking care of #1) is building your life on sand

Even if you do great things in life – if you do them with a selfish intent your

actions are hypocritical. (Me in Chapel)

That is what JC meant when He said

“Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you, depart from me you Evildoers.'”

- Christians need to make decisions in life based upon who we are, CHRISTIANS!
- When we don’t, we’re not being true to ourselves & we tear ourselves apart
- A wise man builds his house upon ROCK and foolish builds it on SAND

What is the ROCK in your life? Do you know the difference?

What is the SAND in your life? Do you want to know how to tell?

It’s all about the fruit in your life - Alleluia Verse “I am the vine you are the branches whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit” Are you bearing good fruit? Abundant fruit? NO?

Then you are not connected to the vine and you’re not on rock!