

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – B

- Playing marbles
 - Cats eyes, pureies, shooters
 - 2 kinds of games - For Fun OR For Keeps
 - Jesus is playing for Keeps
 - No holds barred – if something gets in the way – get rid of it!
 - Hand, Foot, Eye – not suggesting we maim ourselves
 - What you Do
 - Where you Go **IF ITS LEADING YOU TO SIN**
 - What you see **GET RID OF IT**
 - OUR CONTROL – what do you DO in your life that leads to sin
 - Where do you go “ “ “ “ “
 - What do you see “ “ “ “ “
 - CUT IT OFF – GET RID OF IT

BUT SALVATION IS A COMBINATION OF

- Movement of our Will – **where we act** (like the cup of cold water)
- Movement of the Spirit – **where God acts** - salvation is a gift we choose to accept
 - 1st reading & Gospel both have Gift of prophecy appearing in unexpected places
 - *God moves where He wills, when He wills, how He wills*
 - *The fact that Elda & Medad missed the meeting didn't stop HS*
 - & when Spirit moves – Moses and Jesus encourage it
 - They rejoice – Moses says “wouldn't it be great if we were all prophets”
 - The Spirit moves where it will, even unexpected places,
 - **BUT, we** choose whether to let it into our hearts
 - Gifts of HS, like prophecy, are exactly that *GIFTS* –
 - Its up to us whether we unwrap them & use them
 - What we do – Where we go – What we see
 - Can be indicators of how we use God's gifts
 - And we will be accountable on Judgment Day

THERE WILL BE SURPRISES ON JUDGEMENT DAY – What do you think happens?

We tend to focus on the negative – sins, shortcomings, selfish acts

Jesus talks about the millstone for a reason – sin IS terrible

(but to teach someone to sin is worse)

Little girl whose mother died – Dad comes home tired after a long day

“Play with me” - Instead he cracks a beer, puts up his feet, ‘Go play outside in the street’

So she does – eventually caught up in street life – gangs, drugs, snares of street life

Eventually she dies and St. Peter says “Jesus, tough girl at the gate – Hell?”

JC – “Let her in, but watch for a man who refuses to play with daughter & sent her out”

Jesus refers to Gehenna – dump – valley of Hinnom (Molok) image of Hell (worm/fire)

- BUT in today's Gospel Jesus points out Judgment has another component
 - If someone gives a cup of water IN CHRIST'S NAME, he'll be rewarded
 - Think what that means every act of forgiveness every donation
 - Every penny given every piece of clothing every visit to the sick
 - Every kind letter every prayer for needy every word of comfort
 - Every single action we perform as Christians to love God and neighbor
 - Is noticed, remembered and stores up rewards on Judgment Day

God's Mercy is part of Judgment Day too

- BUT DEACON – if JC is so generous, why don't I experience it in my life?
 - Why am I surrounded by darkness, sadness, and problems?
 - We can't see God's light in our life if we don't open the shutters
 - When a storm comes we put up shutters (defensive)
 - When storm passes we take them down (not always)
 - If we close ourselves up – we'll never see the light
 - God is respectful of our freedom
 - He gives us opportunities and instruments to receive the HS
 - But He doesn't force us to open His gifts and use them
 - He gives us Scripture – its up to us to study it & read it
 - Gift of prayer – its up to us to make it a priority & develop it
 - Sacraments – Eucharist, Confession – fountains of grace
- Jesus calls each of us – He's playing for keeps – and He wants to fill us with HS (Power)
- Each of us received the Holy Spirit at Baptism
- The Spirit moves where it wills – and that Spirit can be released in US
- How we live – where we go, what we do are so important JESUS SAYS CUT IT OFF
 - GET RID OF ALL THAT
LEADS YOU TO SIN
 - Sin is real - Evil is real
 - Good is also real & Love of Jesus is ours if we but accept it
 - We need to open the shutters of our soul
 - Or just ONE SHUTTER we've been afraid to open – and let the light in
 - Nothing would please Jesus more