

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – A

- Today both the OT and the NT say:
 - When someone sins – and we see it – we need to do something about it
 - Risky Business – who do you think you are? RU better than me?
 - EZ and MT are pretty clear that we should DO something
 - Even giving us directions on how to deal with sinful people
 - EZ – when you see it, confront it
 - If you don't & he persists in sin – you BOTH get punished
 - If you do confront him & he persists in sin – only HE is punished
 - If you do confront him & he repents – BOTH get rewarded
 - MT – same thing & MT tells them HOW to confront it
 - 1st go one on one – then go with a brother so there are witnesses
 - Then go to the whole church
 - But it's the 2nd reading I think that's the key today
 - ROM tells us what our attitude should be doing this
 - And that makes all the difference
 - “Love for your neighbor is fulfillment of every law”
 - When we see sin, we try to correct it – with LOVE
 - Now then – real world – how would this work at NSJ?
 - Small community – Everyone knows everyone
 - Everyone knows everyone's business
 - So – if we started living this text what would happen?
 - BUSY BODY – MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS – WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE
 - Let me tell you who you are – You're Christians!

If we try to correct someone as Christians then:

- “Love does no evil to the neighbor” that means --
- Love doesn't humiliate - Love doesn't shame – it's not sarcastic
- Love restores the other – renews – re-unites
 - Tired mother serves burnt toast and jam at the end of a long day
 - Father eats it without a word, then the kids ask why
 - Burnt toast never hurt anyone but harsh words do
 - How you correct someone matters
- Correcting someone with compassion, caring for them, bears fruit
- Correction seeks to bring out the goodness in the other, seeks to motivate, to reveal sources of strength, revitalize ideals, to find and encourage what seems lost – HARD TO DO
 - Two tribes in Andes – highland and lowland people
 - Highlanders attack a village and steal a baby
 - Lowlanders never climb mountains, didn't know the trails, how to get over cliffs – but they sent troops to rescue the baby
 - After days struggling to get up, without success, they run into the mother coming down, with her baby
 - HOW – WE COULDN'T – HOW DID YOU - *It wasn't your baby*
- The lost baby is our brother in sin

- We all can agree what is wrong is wrong
- Correction, in love, is finding a way to bring the brother home
- It's not easy – it's difficult and puts us at risk of losing a friend
- But because we love, it is not an option
 - EZ – if you don't speak out I will hold you responsible –
 - Our salvation depends on how well we love our brother
- EZ says “if you see evil and do nothing, you're just as guilty as sinner”
 - But Jesus brings a new tool that EZ didn't have
 - We are NT people – Christians have forgiveness – Redeemed
 - EZ couldn't forgive sin – He couldn't claim redemption
 - Jesus says “whatever you loose on earth is loosed in heaven”
 - If you see evil – **do something about it B U T**
 - Do it with Christian love NOT – OT Judgment
 - Bring compassion, hope, & forgiveness