

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

(Wearing BAYBURGER Hat)

My son owns a burger restaurant in NY – Do you like burgers?

So many ways to do burgers – w/cheese, onion, pickle, tomato, lettuce, mayo, ketchup, mustard

There was an old TV commercial – old lady gets her burger – and asks Where's the beef!

When we go out for a burger it's not for the lettuce, pickles and tomatoes

It's for the beef

- **That is the message of today's reading**

- **Where's the beef in our faith** - Actions speak louder than words

Today Jesus tells the story of two sons:

(1) One who said **yes - and then did not** do it AND (2) one who said **no - but later does**.

We come to church

We pray the prayers

We say all the right words

But do we live the life – THAT's the Beef

If I don't obey the commandments

If I cheat

If I lie

If I gossip

If I steal

Then all we do here is lettuce and pickles -- How we ACT is the BEEF

Jesus asks the Pharisees "which did the will of their father"?

When they say the one that obeys, Jesus condemns them – they know LAW - but not LIFE of it

"You can be sure that tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you ever will!"

Really? Yes, really.

Prostitutes were like the son that said NO and went

- They had said NO to God's commandments many times

- **But** when they met Jesus, and heard His message – it changed their lives, and they responded

Chief Priest and the elders were like the other son

- they said YES to obeying God's law, they knew religion very well.

- they come and listen to Jesus, *but it never penetrated their hearts*

- and they don't change, they don't repent, they're comfortable in their sin.

Which son are we? Where's the beef?

When asking this question we have to keep one thing in mind – The Good News:

- No matter how far we have strayed or how bad we have been

- It is never too late to turn back to God – In fact:

o In EZ people complain that God is TOO merciful

o God's mercy is incomprehensible to them

▪ Even in the OT image of God, God desires conversion/new hearts

▪ It's the point of Jesus' parable:

• Sinners came to J the B & repented

• Jesus comes, like J the B, to call sinners

• When J says "Go and sin no more" it implies divine confidence

o You can turn from sin and degradation

o You can return to innocence and kindness to each other

o YET – people will complain "it's not fair Deacon"

o "He be bad – She be bad – not her/him" YES HER/HIM

o St Paul tells Phil. "Your attitude should be like Christ"

▪ He took the form of a slave, emptied Himself, humiliated, humbled, died on cross, YET exalted at God's right hand

▪ So that every knee will bend and all proclaim JC is Lord

If we live our faith we must leave our sin and live like the Christians we claim to be

If we live our faith we must share it with those still in sin and bring them back

Jesus was willing to eat with sinners – and sinners repented

WE are about to share a meal with Jesus – it's our turn to repent