

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

Remember that old Burger King commercial – **Where's the beef!**

A little tiny lady would look at a burger and complain – **Where's the beef! (compare burgers)**

Talk is cheap – prove it

Actions speak louder than words

- **That is the message of today's reading – Where's the beef in OUR faith?**

Today Jesus tells the story of two sons:

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

THEN Jesus asks the Pharisees “which did the will of their father”?

When they say the one that obeys, Jesus condemns them

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

Now I always thought this was a big jump -

How do you get from the parable, to prostitutes going to heaven before Pharisees?

Prostitutes weren't keeping God's law

- 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 second 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?

We may be very familiar with *religion* – but how do we live our lives?

Would people we meet, realize we were Christians? **Where's the beef?**

Today's date is the Feastday of St. Vincent de Paul. If it were a weekday we would be recalling his life. That memorial gets bumped with it falls on Sunday, but his life really applies to today's readings.

Most of us only know St. V de P as a charity organization. - Its where we donate \$, clothes and furniture.

But, if you ever met St. V de P you'd know where the beef was.

St. V de P put his faith to word in serving all he met

Poor, sick, widow, orphan, foriegnier – all were met as Christ. He said:

“We must love our neighbor as being made in the image and likeness of God, AND as an object of that love”

In our parish we have an active St. V de P Council – they take phone calls from those in need.

The go visit them in their homes. If they can they provide the support they need.

Where's the beef? Seeing people in need and doing something about it

BECAUSE they are Christians

Each of us here today are Christians

We are also sinners -- just like the tax collectors and prostitutes Jesus talked about

We are sinners who hear the Word of God, just like them – and because we do -

“We must love our neighbor as being made in the image and likeness of God, AND as an object of that love”

Where's the beef? Where's the beef in Christianity?

Its tucked away in that first reading from EZ.

EZ speaks of the “injustice” of God, that “God's ways are unfair”

Because God expects conversion.

And when He gets it - He is being accused of being TOO forgiving –

No matter how far we have strayed

No matter how bad we have been

It is never too late to turn back, and God will welcome us home

Jesus eats with sinners – and prostitutes repent

WE are about to share a meal with Jesus – its our turn. Enjoy the beef