

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – A

- Many of the Churches in the Bahamas are made with stone
 - Now there is one thing about these stones
 - They are rocks or blocks held together by cement.
 - Together, they are capable of holding up an immense weight
 - They are a good example of the importance each ONE of us has in Church
 - We are like each of the individual stones
 - Alone we can hold a little weight, not really all that much.
 - But united together, with JC, we can hold the weight of the world.
 - Another thing about the stone – it's not all the same type.
 - Some limestone, granite, slate, marble – some are hard, some soft
 - Like US – some of us are strong, some weak
 - But united together, with JC, we are CHURCH
 - Readings today talk about relationships –
 - If we are really as united as these stones how should we relate with each other?
 - **What do we do when** you know someone else is doing wrong?
 - World says “Mind your own business”
 - Isaiah says “if you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I'll hold YOU responsible for his death”
 - **What do you do when** someone does you wrong?
 - Calls you names
 - Lies about you
 - Turns your friends against you.
 - World says “Get even”
 - Jesus didn't tell us to deal with our enemies by hurting them back.
 - Instead we must do what Jesus did – love them and forgive them
 - St. Paul says “All the commandments – all the ‘Thou shalt not's are summed up in the saying ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ love is fulfillment of the law”
 - Loving one another unites us - and reconciles us together
 - Like Jesus, we too must continue to look for the lost sheep
 - So that together we may ALL join JC in heaven