

13th Sunday Ordinary Time A

Let me tell you a story about uncle Henry's farm

I show up, sophomore in HS, during haying season - new work boots, overalls
Setting a fence post Arnold drops a post in a puddle – mud splashes all over me
We got back to work but later - Henry “Did you do that on purpose?” YUP
We worked faster once he wasn't worried about his new overalls

- MT's Gospel Jesus tells the Apostles the “Conditions of Discipleship”
 - Whoever loves Mother/Father more than me is not worthy of me
 - Whoever loves Son/Daughter more than me is not worthy of me
 - Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me
 - Pretty radical stuff
 - What is getting in the way of your relationship with J?
 - Arnold could see that my concern for my new overalls was slowing us down – Getting in the way.
 - What is getting in the way of your relationship with J?
 - J says whatever it is, chuck it – even if its family.
 - J says to follow me, take up your cross
 - (First time “CROSS” is in MT)
 - Its about OUR crosses in life - not His
- In the First Reading the married couple that was kind to Elisha had no son.

That was their cross to bear

I am sure they wanted one

I am sure they had prayed and asked God for one – instead God sends them Elisha
As prayerful people they recognize a prophet – so they are kind, charitable
Eventually they build a room, then add desk, bed, chair and a lamp
Their prayer PLUS their charity – AND *what they do* – is rewarded.
They never ask Elisha for a son – but because of their charity -

When Elisha heard they had no son he tells them, “next year you will have a son”

He speaks with confidence BECAUSE of HIS relationship with God

Do we have that kind of confidence WHY NOT?

- God not only hears our prayers, He sees our actions, how we live.

– what we do matters!
- We are here at St C's
 - What we DO here makes a difference
 - We come together and pray – we are a people of faith
 - Our two readings today teach us that a relationship with GOD:
 - Is not just about being prayerful
 - It includes getting rid of what separates us from God
 - But it's also about doing good
 - Christianity is not only about keeping your overalls clean
 - It also means we have to get like the Christians we claim to be
Ghandi “If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ all of India would be Christians today”