

11th Sunday Ordinary Time C

It's been over 4 years since I left St. Tim's for Bahamas – here's a quick review of life
Still serving 4 parishes without a priest (sometimes as long as 6 mos)
Still dealing with swarms of mosquitos, scorpions, tarantulas, green-headed flies
Still can't drink the water, threat of hurricanes for 6 mos. & 100+degree weather
Extreme poverty – drugs – alcoholism and voodoo

BUT

Attendance has tripled We're supporting an AA group
RCIA every year 1st Communion every year
Building a new church on the northern end of the island with a large Haitian population
(Foundation/Walls going up)

Today we hear all about repentance

1. 2SAM - David is accused of killing Bathsheba hubby & David seeks forgiveness
2. GAL – its not by the law we are saved, but thru Christ
3. LK – sinful woman seeks forgiveness **& gets it**

Isn't repentance great! Because it's by repenting, we receive mercy & forgiveness
And SALVATION comes through forgiveness of sin

Let me tell you a story:

One of the most valuable Christmas presents for a kid in the Bahamas is a bicycle

Antonio got a new bike

Cameo rides it

Darren comes over with a new basketball

Cameo leaves Antonio's bike in the driveway and they shoot hoops

CRUNCH – Antonio's new bike is a wreck

Driver "I'm so sorry – I'll buy a new bike" & Cameo is off the hook

That night tells his folks about Antonio's new bike, how he'd ridden it, & its destruction

Dad "Where was the bike when destroyed?" (Father's Day wisdom)

Cameo "I'd left it in the drive – but she promised to replace it"

Dad "No way – she did nothing wrong – you left it there, you're responsible"

Cameo's heart sank – no money – (terror)

Dad "Son, we all make mistakes, I know you're sorry for what you've done and you can't buy a new bike – I'll pay for the bike"

Cameo ran to his father, threw his arms around him, whispered, Love You Daddy

This is a good picture of what our Heavenly Father has done for us

We all make mistakes – it's always a mistake to disobey God's word – we call that sin

But we know God loves us – so much He sent His Son to pay the price for our sin.

There is no way we can repay Him for our forgiveness.

All we can do is say "Thank You" and accept the fact we are forgiven.

Watch this – while we receive forgiveness - WE can be a source of forgiveness

God's mercy is not for us to hoard, but to share

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| • Who in your life has forgiven you? PAUSE | Felt good didn't it |
| • Who in your life have you forgiven? PAUSE | Felt good didn't it |
| NOW | |
| • Who do you still need to forgive? PAUSE | What're you going to do about it? |