

10th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A

How many of you have played SIMON SAYS

OK – let's try it – Everybody Stand UP – You're all OUT

Simon Says is all about following directions

Today I want to talk about what it means to follow Jesus

One day Jesus saw a tax collector named Matthew while he was working

Collecting taxes was NOT a fun job

Nobody liked the tax collector

They were collaborators with the occupying Roman Army

AND they cheated – skimming money off top for themselves

Jesus didn't look at Matthew for the job he held

Jesus didn't look at Matthew because of what others said about him

Jesus looked at his heart and told him "Follow Me"

NB not at Church not at Prayer at work
Jesus comes in the midst of the day to day – be ready

What happens next is one of the most amazing things in scripture

Matthew walks off the job to follow Jesus

He leaves the table with the money still on it

He leaves all the receipts

He leaves all the people standing in line

He completely leaves his old way of life and follows Jesus

He didn't want to continue in sin

He decided right then and there to leave his old way of life

When a person turns away from doing bad – Repentance

When a person does what God says – Obedience

Matthew did both

He takes JC home and introduces Him to friends and family

HAVE WE INTRODUCED OUR FRIENDS TO Jesus?

Just as Matthew followed Jesus – WE are called to follow Jesus

We all have sinned and need repentance

Jesus wants to give US the opportunity he gave Matthew

Does that mean we'll be perfect? No – it means we will try.

Just as its hard to play 'Simon says' without any mistakes it's hard to live a perfect life without making mistakes.

God knows we will make mistakes

& when we do He wants us to go to Jesus to be forgiven

Is God calling YOU to come closer? Just like Matthew?

- Jesus is ready if you are