

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Easter – Year B

### INTRO

- I was gone all week with other Catholic Prison Chaplains for retreat  
I heard a lot about the problems we share  
I heard a lot about the blessings we share – good to be together
  - A problem I had was a guy in my parish I don't get along with  
Arguments, Conflicts, Resentments – He finds a problem with everything  
Royal PITA – and all weekend long he's on my mind
- In today's Gospel Peter has the similar problem
  - He gets called to the house of a Centurion – Cornelius
    - A Gentile – not a Jew like Peter AND a Roman Centurion no less
    - I can see Peter “I don't need this guy in my life”
      - Lord, Really? Even Him? – YES Even Him
        - Peter has a lot to learn (I have a lot to learn) So do we all LET US PRAY

ACTS Peter's Vision – EAT (no its not kosher) 3x - Then Cornelius' servant knocks on the door

- A Centurion calls, you answer. – Peter's not willing but he goes (bringing other Jews)
- He finds out Cornelius is a believer

Peter discovers God is creating something unexpected GENTILE-CHRISTIANS

THEN THIS HAPPENS – READ IT

- This is huge for Peter – to go into a Gentile house – to pray with them & Tongues
- This is just like Pentecost – but with Gentiles! AND ITS A CENTURION
- The “circumsized believers who accompanies Peter” ASTOUNDED!
  - **Jesus came for everyone – The Holy Spirit is released on everyone**  
Roman Centurions, Gentiles, My problem parishioner, Detainees in NSJ

THAT IS WHY PS 98 is so perfect

“The Lord has revealed TO THE NATIONS His saving power” READ IT

It ends “All the ends of the earth have seen salvation – sing joyfully ALL YOU LANDS

- Nobody is left out – Nobody is forgotten
- Jew and Gentile – Poor and Rich – Men and Women – Black, White, Hispanic
  - All have access to the salvation of our God – JC died and rose for everybody
  - How is this possible? 1 JOHN tells us

1 JOHN says that because of God's love “God sent His only Son INTO THE WORLD”

Again – for the world – for everybody READ IT

GOSPEL READ IT

Jesus says “Love one another” – nothing new – that's all through OT

BUT – Jesus says “Love one another as I have loved you” **RADICALLY NEW**

- I am supposed to love – as Jesus does
- Tall order – my problem parishioner is a PITA – the Centurion was a nuisance

We all have these 'problem people' in our lives – **EVEN THEM? YES**

THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR ME – and its my problem

My prejudices, my resentments, my judgements get in the way (I bet yours too)

On retreat “God can use our brokenness, just like He can use your blessings”

I was shocked – God can use my resentments for good?

I preach “All things work for the good” – How? GOD can heal them

My resentments, anger, judgements of my PITA can be healed by God loving me

So that I can love my PITA – so that we ALL can (if we let Him)