

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 28th, 2008

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: EZEKIEL 18:25-28

Thus says the LORD: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

PSALM 25

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior

2ND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:28-32

Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

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Jesus' simple tale of the two sons takes the Gospel out of the realm of the "theoretical" and places God's mercy into the midst of our messy, complicated everyday lives.

I follow current events very closely. I have since I was a kid and John Kennedy ran for and was elected the first Catholic president. I think most politicians run for office with good intentions but many forget why people elected them. Of course, I know there are differing opinions on the role government should play in our lives. In this current crisis, I'd like to make some suggestions. Let's look at our Constitution and ask ourselves why we even have a government? Why did we fight the War of Independence? What does the declaration say? Why did we fight the War between the states? Who were the patriots defending the Constitution and who were the traitors? What made this country great? What will make it greater in the future? We can't answer these questions until we know what we want our country to be. It's the same with life. You can't solve your personal issues until you define your purpose.

What are you trying to accomplish? What will you do this week to bring you closer to your goals? You will never be indecisive if you know your purpose. I think that is the point of today's Gospel: know your objective. Faced with any dilemma, the correct choice will reveal itself once you weigh your options against your objectives. These need to be durable, long term goals, other wise you will be tempted to abandon them for the lure of instant gratification.

We've all heard of priests in the Church who have committed an act of misconduct. I don't think they would have sinned so badly if they had remembered why they first became a priest. If they were committed to leading people to God, you know they wouldn't make such horrendous choices. Students might face a choice of partying all night or studying for a big exam. If their primary objective is to get their diploma there really is no choice. They are obligated to themselves to crack open those books. The moment we lose sight of our objectives, we flip flop.

We want to live our lives so we don't look back and wish we could do it over. We want to build upon our strengths and accept our limitations. We want to be Good news!