

# 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

September 27, 2009

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

## 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: NUMBERS 11:25-29

But Moses answered, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord would bestow his spirit on them all!"

## PSALM 19

Cleanse me from my unknown faults!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: JAMES 5:1-6

Behold the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

## GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him."

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Although today's readings have been repeating every three years for at least as long as I have been alive, they seem like they were chosen as a response to some of what we are seeing in our country today. We hear Moses respond to Joshua and Jesus respond to John in much the same way.

Regardless of our own perspective, we all seem to be approaching life much like:

There's **us**---and there's them.

**We're alright.** They're not.

**We're justifiably concerned for our family's livelihood.** They're in it for the money.

**We're resting.** They're self indulgent.

**We're pragmatic.** They're manipulative.

**We're teasing.** They're mean spirited.

**We know the truth.** They're ill-informed.

**We're concerned for the common good.** They're out to grab whatever they can get.

***Don't you dare question our good intentions, our values, our patriotism.*** But they're intentions, values and patriotism is suspicious.

***You can trust us***---but be afraid of them.

***We welcome all***---with our minds locked.

***We're created equal***---but some of us are more equal than others.

***We are all children of God***---but we're God's favorites.

***We're the people of God***---we pray for them.

When Jesus admonishes John in today's Gospel, Jesus is calling for an end to this tribal "*us vs. them*" emotional reactivism and Jesus is insisting that John think it through and see that God's kingdom is built on generosity, humility, respect and understanding for all, by all. Do you think it would be good news if today WE, like John, heard his voice and lived as He wants us to live?