

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 17-18, 2010

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

1ST READING: GENESIS 18:1-10A

The Lord appeared to Abraham...Looking up, Abraham saw three men...One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son."

PSALM 15

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

2ND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:24-28

...it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.

GOSPEL: LUKE 10:38-42

Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.

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The family was enjoying a week at a Disney hotel. After two days, ten year old Jimmy knew the lay of the land. He found his way to the hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. It was a busy time and a weary waitress asked if he was alone and he said yes. She put a glass of water at his place and asked what he wanted. "How much is an ice cream sundae," he asked. The waitress rolled her eyes and said "\$5.00; is that what you want?" The boy said, "How much is a plain dish of ice cream?" The waitress thought: this kid was a pain she didn't need. She said, "Ice cream is \$4.00; c'mon kid, I have other customers." He said, "Okay, I'll take the ice cream." The waitress brought the ice cream and put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream enjoying every spoonful, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she picked up the empty plate and swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed partly under the dish so it wouldn't blow away was a dollar bill—her tip. Ten year old Jimmy didn't allow the weary waitress' disposition to effect his disposition.

This week someone asked me how to interpret the phrase: "For the love of God." Let me ask you: what do you think the phrase, "For the love of God" means? Do you think it means we *earn* the love of God? Do you think we do this or that; we come to church; we become priests to earn the love of God? How is your disposition today?

Another story about another ten year old boy up north gathered the leaves on the family's front yard and made a pile. He and his friends delighted in jumping into the pile, gathering it back and jumping into it again and again. It was a terrific afternoon and he had a great time. Later his dad came home and saw the pile of leaves and said, "Son, you did a very good job gathering the leaves into piles; you are a good boy. If you'll bag them in the morning, I am going to give you ten dollars." With that everything changed. The boy still gathered the piles of leaves and he and his friends still jumped in them once in a while. But now the piles of leaves weren't for jumping and delight but for approval and pay. What had been fun in itself became work.

For the love of God, what have we done? Both Martha and Mary were good hostesses. Both welcomed Jesus. Martha was doing what she delighted doing for the love of God and Mary was doing what she delighted doing for the love of God. The difference is that Martha turned her delight into a job. Mary might have made visiting with Jesus a job too. But instead, Mary simply enjoyed the love of God that was freely given. The story is about our dispositions.

I think any ten year old could tell you, "Enjoy your ice cream while it is on your plate!" Don't let some one else's disposition ruin your disposition. God *already* loves you, amazing, isn't it? It's good news too!