

Breaking Open the Word: The Word is a Slice of Life
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 24 July 2022

READING AND FAITH SHARING FOR THE DAY:

*Today's Gospel is **Luke 11:1-13**. Each of the Readings can be read or simply the Gospel. 1st Reading: **Genesis 18:20-32**; 2nd Reading: **Colossians 2:12-14** . WHILE SOMEONE READS THE SCRIPTURE(S), LISTEN WELL. BE AWARE OF THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE OR EXPERIENCE?*

After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s) with each other:

Would you teach me to pray? Please?

- ✓ *Who has asked you that question? What was your response? How did you proceed?*
- ✓ *If you started with a certain "formula" prayer: which one, would it be? Why?*
- ✓ *How did you learn to pray?*
- ✓ *What's your go-to prayer when push-come- to-shove for you? Who taught you that prayer?*

Luke has Jesus taken a turn to the Left – away from tradition and into the slice of life stuff again. **Suppose one of you has a friend** who comes to you! This is totally a radical way of addressing prayer - response to friendship! God as our neighbor! God as our friend!

- ✓ *How would you respond to Jesus' question about a friend asking for bread?*
- ✓ *Which neighbor are you? Are you asking/praying for bread?*
- ✓ *Which neighbor are you? Are you the one who Jesus/God is coming/praying to for a person seeking asylum/refuge? ...returning citizen? ...a person who is widowed, orphaned, human-trafficked or other?*
- ✓ *What was your experience of that?*

Calling all "Advocates!!" Abraham in the Genesis Reading is the "bold one!" **What if there are [only] innocent people?** How is that for prayer!?! Ever thought of doing that!

- ✓ *When have you "gone to bat" for someone in your Prayer? ...with "the authorities" or God?*
- ✓ *How did that turn out?*
- ✓ *Who would you go to bat for?*

Paul, in the 2nd Reading even becomes more radical about the action of Christ! Paul teaches us that even "uncircumcision" was eliminated as a "divider" by Jesus when **he brought you to life along with him... obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, NAILING IT TO THE CROSS.**

- ✓ *What limits to "salvation," not being able to be forgiven, have you grown up with?*
- ✓ *Who have you been formed to see as being "uncircumcised," and, therefore inadmissible to relate to? How does Paul's expression of the teaching of Jesus respond to that?*

You know the phrase, **Death! Where is your Victory? Death Where is your sting?** Here we have it stated in another way.

- ✓ *How can I live as an advocate for people unacceptable to society? ...family? ...church?*
- ✓ *To what do you need to die so as to be a life-giver for others?*

Intentions for Ourselves and the World in Which We Live!

For the Church: Creator, like Abraham, may we grow in our friendship with you and honestly present our needs and the needs of others to you each day.

For the grace to be ministers of reconciliation: Creator, may we witness to your mercy by offering forgiveness to one another. May we seek forgiveness when we have injured someone.

For persistence in prayer: Creator, may your Spirit teach us how to authentically express our deepest needs to you in prayer. Give us strength to never grow tired of calling upon your assistance,

For a deeper appreciation of our baptism: May we recognize the great gift of new life in Christ and faithfully live as your daughters and sons.

For a renewal of the Holy Spirit in our lives: Creator, refresh and deepen the gift of the Spirit who has been poured out into our hearts. May we be dynamic instruments of your love.

For people facing trial and difficulty: Creator, strengthen the hearts of all Christians who are imprisoned or persecuted for their faith. Fill them with courage in your Spirit.

For each of us: May we make seeking your Reign a priority in our lives. Open our hearts to seeking your will first in all our activities.

For people hungry for daily bread: Creator, inspire us to find new opportunities for them to access food. Touch the hearts of people who have an abundance to share more freely.

Finish by praying the Lord's Prayer/