Breaking Open the Word: Humility's Action Response
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 11 September 2022

READING AND FAITH SHARING FOR THE DAY:

Each of the Readings can be read or simply the Gospel. **1 Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 ; *2nd Reading:* Paul to Timothy 1 Timothy 1:12-17.** *Today's Gospel is a selection from* **Luke 15:1-32.** **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. Then jump to this:

- ✓ ***When have you to eat humble pie, when someone younger than you called you out on something?***
- ✓ ***When have you been the one making someone else red-faced by a little sarcasm or catching them in a two-faced come-up-pence?***
- ✓ ***Twelve Steppers: What was your experience of working through the 6th, 7th, and 8th steps?***

<-><-><-><-> <-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><->

Moses seems to have picked up the cheeky attribute in "dealing with" God that Abrham had a couple weeks ago!! Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand? Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self. As God is sending Moses down from Mount Zion to "correct" the Golden Calf episode, Moses stood between Creator and us, the created, advocating for Mercy.

- ✓ ***What do you see to be the Golden Calves of our time? What issues are "making people" to be self-righteous? …issues in the Church: But even more so issues in society.***
- ✓ ***How quickly do you get your hackles up about an issue/or person before you know what the issue is really about? …or what the person's story is? …what has happened?***
- ✓ ***How can your life become an advocate for the "sinners" and "hypocrites" around you?***
- ✓ ***How did the people's sense of God's and Moses' abandonment play into creating a Golden Calf?***

<-><-><-><-> <-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><->

Paul is a good Christian Scripture (New Testament) poster boy for an enemy of "The Way" of Christ encountering Mercy. In today's selection to Timothy, encouraging him in his own struggle to understand the pastoral life, Paul points out, I was mercifully treated *[by Christ]*, **so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example. Paul offers us a clarification a couple sentences earlier: Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry.**

- ✓ ***When have you been mercifully treated in your life?***
- ✓ ***How has that mercy become mercy in your own life?***
- ✓ ***How can it become the model of transformation in your life?***

<-><-><-><-> <-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><-><->

Luke gives us his classic Prodigal story to Feast on today! But before this selection gets into the Prodigal story, we are offered another clay-feet challenge about humility and mercy:

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

- ✓ ***When have you been called out for the "company you keep?"***
- ✓ ***How stressful was that for you? How did the challenge play out?***

Luke sets the well-known, but often only partially seen stage:

"The Prodigal: Coming to a Home Near You!"

As Prelude Luke challenges us with Jesus' words: Wh[o] among you having… Then he gives us a couple of examples about property: "One out of 99 sheep" and "A Lady Lost a Coin."

✓ ***Is it really easier to extrapolate responsibility when considering "stuff" before we get to relationships? Why is it an easier heartstring puller to be merciful and compassionate for late-night abused animal photos than for the News report of incarcerated children seeking asylum?***

✓ ***Why might that be?***

**<-><-><-><-> <-><-><->