



Grow. Pray. Serve.

January 22, 2016

Indifference

1. Jesus healed, loved, forgave, transformed, and comforted. But he also pushed buttons and said some hard things for us to hear. "Love your enemies. Forgive 70x7. You can't serve God and money. etc."
2. Often such things were said to the most religious people but his intent was not to destroy but to bring a person back to the love of God.
3. Lots of hard things happening in our world. Just some examples.
 - a. Christian persecution. Also the persecution of Muslims and Jews. We are persecuted and harmed simply because of faith.
 - b. Hunger. 20 percent of children in 30 states are food insecure.
 - c. Seniors living in isolation along with life diminishing loneliness.
 - d. The harming, degrading, discriminating culture against women.
 - e. None of this is political. Not about being a donkey or an elephant, but rather about being a follower of Jesus.
4. Indifference.
 - a. To be unconcerned, uninterested, apathetic, and unresponsive.
 - b. Elie Wiesel. "To be indifferent is the greatest sin of all."
 - c. Paul was not indifferent. In no way was Jesus. See Matthew 25. What we do to those in pain we actually are personally doing to Jesus.
 - d. We are called to be anything but indifferent to pain. At the heart of much of what we do at the Chapel.
5. Indifference is a nuanced idea, however.
 - a. St. Ignatius. Founder of the Jesuits. Developed Spiritual Exercises.
 - b. He said, "our one desire and choice should be to praise, revere, and serve our Lord." To be indifferent to all else. One person says this is all about "making use of those things that bring us closer to God and leave aside all else." Or, to engage what is in alignment with Jesus and let go of all the rest.
 - c. Paul said in essence, engage everything that comes from Christ, things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Don't engage in or with selfish ambition, dissensions, angry outbursts, division, none of which comes from Christ.
6. Key question.
 - a. What am I going to feed? Metaphor of Little Shop of Horrors.
 - b. Christ calls us to feed what is loving and let go of what is not.
7. To be indifferent to things not of God and to be anything but with everything else.

Today's Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-20

10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, [d] by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. **11** For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. [e] **12** What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." **13** Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God [f] that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. **16** (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) **17** For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?



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