



ST. PATRICK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

4797 Curtis Blvd, Port St John FL 32927

Lent 2
March 16, 2025

**✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen. ✠**

The passage selected for the sermon this morning is taken from the Gospel:

“His disciples came and besought Him saying, Send her away, for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, ‘I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of Israel.’ Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, ‘Lord help me.’”

The sermon this morning is about the transformation that comes with Confirmation. However, I want to use this mornings Gospel to illustrate how we can understand the power of the Transformation and what it means to us as we live as Christian’s and members of Christ’s Church. So, I am going to ask you to be patient with me for a few minutes as navigate from the Gospel to the Confirmation message.

This Gospel records a three way encounter. We have the woman, begging Jesus for healing for her daughter and we have Jesus rebuking the behavior of the Apostles and teaching them a very serious and important lesson. What is common to both the woman and the Apostles is how truly helpless they are.

The woman, despite her deep love for her daughter, can do nothing to save her. She can’t oppose the demon. She can’t relieve the suffering her daughter is experiencing. She can’t bring peace to her daughter or her family. Those of us who have battled addiction in our families can easily understand her hopeless plight.

It is only when she comes to Jesus in humility and desperation that she finds the means by which her daughter can be saved. Her faith not only brings peace to her daughter and to her family, but it is by that faith that the woman herself is made whole. How interesting it is that being made whole is characterized by fulfilling her desperate desire to be the means of hope and healing. It is in that she can effectively pour herself out in love that makes her whole.

The weakness of the Apostles is even more interesting and instructive for us. They have been with Jesus for almost 3 years. He has been teaching them by His words, by His life, by His miracles about who he is, and why He had selected them to be the instruments of His Love and the founders of His

Church. And yet, they do not have the Wisdom to separate their ambition and impatience from the ministry which is their purpose. They don't have the knowledge to recognize this woman and her daughter as lost sheep for whom they should be responsible. They don't have understanding and empathy to take on her suffering and make healing her the most important thing in their lives. They don't have the godly strength to pour the grace that has been given to them by Jesus back out into the people Jesus has appointed them to care for and to console.

Though they have been selected, have been set aside for a ministry, and have been instructed in love and mercy by Jesus, they cannot turn the grace that has been given to them into the completion of their ministry because they are not yet grown in faith to reflect and pour themselves out to their family and their flock. It is only after the Crucifixion, after the Resurrection and Ascension, and by the power of the Holy Spirit descending upon them at Pentecost, that are made whole in their faith, that they can be the instruments of grace and healing, that can be fulfilled in love by having the gift to pour that love back out to their flock.

Which brings us finally to Confirmation. When the four of you were baptized, you were made children of God. you received the inheritance of everlasting life. You became the subjects of grace from the Church and from your families. God's love was poured into you, but you were not yet well formed and grown enough to pour that love back out to the world as a minister of Christ's love. The charisms, which means gifts, you received today are the gifts of the Holy Ghost. That gift is an extension, passed from Apostle to Bishop to Bishop down

through to Bishop Bower, of the very grace that was received by the Apostles on Pentecost.

Just as the Holy Spirit gave them strength and power to preach, to heal, to console and to share Godly strength and love, so it has changed you today. Today, you are transformed from the object of grace and love into the mirror that can reflect that strength and love back into your families, your parish, the whole Church and the whole world. Today, the Holy Ghost has come to be with you, to reside with you, to make you His temple. Today, you are made whole in the Life of Christ, because today, you can finally share the gift of His Holy Spirit. You have the power and the grace to be made full of God's love, and not only to be filled, but to overflow with that love and to pour it into the world in an effective, unique and powerful ministry. Today, you are made complete in the Love of God, both in its reception and its distribution.

If you will let yourself, if we all reopen our hearts to the grace given at our own Confirmation, we will feel that new power. We will recognize that we are being transformed. We will begin to understand the purpose and ministry that has been selected for us, and for which we are now empowered. Today, we begin our lives anew as the vessels of love and grace that will be shared with the world and will bring the people we love to Jesus Christ and to everlasting love and light and life.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen