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The Parables in Mark's Gospel

One could possibly argue that the gospels themselves are one long parable, meant to teach, and so challenge our understanding of who God is, who we are, and how we are to be enriched by being one in God. If you recall from last weeks bulletin, Richard Rohr said that ““parables” are meant to subvert our unconscious worldview—and thereby expose its illusions, even to us. Parables should make us a bit uncomfortable if we are really “hearing” them.” What I would like to do over then next few weeks/months, is to look at the Parables found in the Gospel of Mark for the sole purpose of seeing if this is in fact the case. The parables encourage us to experience conversion according to the will and design of God. What I will be sharing is totally from my very limited point of view, so it is in no way the “truth” but only something to consider. Whether you agree or disagree with what I am saying is not important. But there is one thing I would like us all to keep in mind, that if these parables have been offered to us by Jesus, the question we have to ask ourselves is what did he intend to convey to us through them?

Again, Richard Rohr suggest that, “If we fit them (parables) nicely into our business-as-usual world, parables have not served their purpose” and the purpose quite possibly is for us as Fr. Rohr states, “supposed to change our operative world-view and unlock it from the inside—so that we can see and hear reality correctly.” As individuals and more often as a societal collective, we are more inclined to accept things around us as being normative when

we are not disturbed or made to feel uncomfortable. If things are predictable and sustain a normative way of life, then we will continue to support the world/reality around us. But if we have learned anything about this life, it is that nothing just happens. Particularly when it comes to humans and human society, there is a design with a purpose in mind. If it is benefiting me, I will have little reason to question it. But for those who find themselves being excluded from full participation in this life/reality, then a great deal of questioning takes place. What we may find is that Jesus questioned everything, because he saw and experienced first hand a reality that was not safe and secure for everyone, but only for those who were the architects of this reality.

Furthermore, I would like to explore Jesus’ use of parables having two purposes. One: to cause people to stop and to question anything that does not reflect God’s Truthful Being, and Two, to call people to change accordingly, first interiorly (conversion) and then exteriorly in the manner in which they would now live in the world according to God’s Truthful Being. What we need to keep in mind is this, that Jesus was viciously attacked for challenging the well established belief systems of his time. The reason for this, is that we often attempt to discredit a person for what they believe, not necessarily because of what they are saying and doing is false, but that we know on some level that they are both speaking and revealing Truth. Rather than allowing ourselves to be challenged and then change the way we define ourselves, we instead attack the other and will do everything in our power to silence them. Perhaps reality is in need of a challenge. pah

SVDP SOCIETY

12 Centre Street N., Huntsville, ON - **Hotline: 705.789.0008**

We thank you for your continued **Food Pantry Donations!**

At this time, the Food Pantry is short on:
Tooth Paste, Canned Vegetables, Tuna and Salmon, and Boxed Cookies.

We will have a Food Drive this Tuesday, May 26th, from 10am to 12noon.

You can drop off your food donations at the rectory garage. Fr. Paul will be their to meet you.

Thank you so much for your continuing generosity. Peace and Good Will.



7th Sunday of Easter - May 24th - The Ascension of Our Lord



“You are led through your lifetime
by the inner learning creature,
the playful spiritual being that is your real self.
Don't turn away from possible futures
before you're certain you don't have
anything to learn from them.” Richard Bach

Inspiration to carry on first begins by accepting and adapting to where we are presently. The challenges we are facing today vary for each one of us, and sometimes, from day to day. We ought not make light of what anyone is going through, nor be tempted to be thankful that things are not as bad for us as say for others. Perhaps, it is both wise and compassionate to keep in mind that when one suffers, to any degree, we all suffer with them. I offer you then a brief history of a wonderful young girl/woman, Anne Frank, and the words of kindness, hope and inspiration she has left for us and future generations to remember and to put into practice.

In 1940, after Germany invaded the Netherlands, Anne Frank and her family couldn't leave the country, so they decided to hide in a warehouse in an attempt to escape the persecution of Jews by the Nazis. For over two years, Anne wrote in her diary with an awareness that was extremely mature for her age. She detailed her experiences and insights while she and her family were in hiding, living in a constant fear of being arrested. Anne Frank's diary is a record of her understanding of the war, and showcases her incredible storytelling abilities in such horrific circumstances.

In 1944, the Franks were found and sent to concentration camps. Anne died before she turned 16, and her father, Otto Frank, was the only family member to survive the Holocaust. After the War, Otto returned to Amsterdam, where he found his daughter's diary and later published it as *The Diary of a Young Girl*. We have these immortal words today to give us the hope she held in her heart, for a new world, a better world, a peaceful world. Death and Destruction are not the final words, but rather life, love and truth.

Quotes from her diary ...

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.

Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.

No one has ever become poor by giving.

Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God.

I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.

In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit.

Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again.

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness.

The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!

Whoever doesn't know it must learn and find by experience that 'a quiet conscience makes one strong!'

I must uphold my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out.

A Friendly Reminder ...

We are encouraged to “physically distance” ourselves,
for the common good of everyone's health.
This is no reason to “Socially Forget.”

**Reach out to those who maybe
most vulnerable at this time
to ensure they are well,
or whether they are in need of anything.
Be Safe, Be Thoughtful**

Please visit our website
to see what is going on through our Parish Calendar
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We Remember our Faithful Departed especially
Tony Asturi & John Krochak ...
through our sadness our love shines through,
helping us to remember them with Joy

AND

We join our prayers for those who are ill at this time ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Pamela Festing, Joe Hanrath, David Phillips, John Schreurs, Connie Gregory, Kristina Lenart, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Brian Dittmar, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Ruth Anne Foley & Steve MacInnis

And let us pray for those who are so tirelessly working to take care of those who are ill at this time. May they remain safe, healthy and well.



A Community For All / Richard Rohr

Jesus' intimacy with the nature of God as relationship inspired him to redefine the boundaries of family and tribe. Jesus extended kinship to everyone. Author and scholar Beatrice Bruteau (1930–2014) looks to Jesus for a fundamental understanding of what it means to be Christian community:

Jesus had a fundamental vision—faith that *all people* [emphasis mine] are “children of God.” This is the *theological* perspective of his “program,” on which everything else rests. I am supposing that he took this seriously, more or less literally, ... teaching that each person has an uncreated soul that is actually a continuation of the Divine Life itself. When he met a person, therefore, he really believed that God was somehow present in that person, so he looked for that presence through all the overlying contradictions to it, until he found it. Then he addressed himself to that point in the person. As the Hindus also say, the divine in him saluted the divine in the other. When anyone does that, it tends to awaken the divine in the other, who is thus invited to speak from that place in return. [Notice the mutuality! It begins with one person's generous gaze, which is then returned in kind.] This is the sort of thing we will need to accustom ourselves to doing if we are to succeed in developing the further levels of the [Jesus] program . . .

[One of the images of] Jesus' friendship community in which there are no lords or servants . . . was the family and the extended kinship [network]. . . There are no sexual, racial, or historical barriers to membership in this family. Its intention is to include everyone. But this does not mean that it has no structure, no principles, no operating dynamic. It has these with great clarity, especially since they are all simple and

St. Vincent de Paul Food Request

On behalf of the volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul, they are requesting a few food items they are now short of:

Tooth Paste, Canned Vegetables, Salmon, Tuna & Boxes of Cookies

**The Food Drive will be this Tuesday,
May 26th, 10am - 12 noon**

Drop off will be at the Rectory Garage.
Fr. Paul will be there to receive your donations.

Thank you so much!

Next Sunday May 31st - PENTECOST SUNDAY

“The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me; my eye and God's eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love.

The more deeply we are our true selves, the less self is in us.

Between God and Me there is no 'Between'.”

Meister Eckart

even obvious, once the basic principle of social and personal equality has been seen and accepted. . . .

Once you see the basic truth, he might insist, that we are all God's children and therefore absolutely equal, the rest of it is just common sense. You don't need a divine teacher to spell it out for you, much less to set up a new battery of regulations and sanctions. You can make all the deductions and applications yourself and you will live by them because you see the truth and genuinely want to live that way.

Richard again: I believe most Christians have good intentions to follow Jesus' example, but they are quickly overrun by the “me-first” norms of mainstream culture. In moments of crisis, however, we seem to tap into something deeper and truer. We remember our kinship with one another. In the first weeks of the pandemic, I heard media reports of hoarding and price gouging, but I have heard far more stories of generosity, courage, compassion, and sacrifice for the sake of others. We do not all have the same gifts, but many seem to be giving their very best.

Prayer for Our Community:

O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. [Please add your own intentions.] . . .

Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope you are faring well under these conditions. I wish to thank all who have so graciously been reaching out to one another, ensuring that others spirits, minds and hearts continue to flourish. I would also like to thank you for remaining so patient with how things are unfolding. Your care for one another is helping everyone to be well and remain as healthy as possible. Finally, thank you to all who have been able to continue to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society and our Parish Church through your donations. Your faith in action is a sign of your good will that extends beyond ourselves. Peace and good will.

Fr. Paul

**May 16TH/17TH
Weekend Offertory
\$2,431.15**

Thank you for your continued kindness and participation in your parish church, through your time, talent and generous offerings.

La Paz Contigo