

And God said – Donie why did you decide to become a priest?
.....was it to be a goody 2 shoes?
Or was it for.....a chilled and comfortable life?
Of course not

Why did you become a missionary ?
...was it to see the world?
Come on God...

I bet you became a priest because you are a dedicated follower of fashion....and the color black being so forgiving....
Are you for real?....

Now why did you come to CA.....the suntan...to party...to dress down....
Ok God ...why are you so delightfully up close and personalgive me a break?

My friends, Jesus is in the same mood in today's Gospel. He is delightfully upfront. He is out to expose pretense and coverup.

He does it marvelously tinged with a little irony. He is no fool, he is not blinkered or taken in by performance and insincerity.
He cuts through the chase and sighs – 'you seek me not because you saw a miracle but to fill your belly'.

The crowd's impure motivations were visible to Jesus and he sets out to remedy that.

Jesus understands that we are driven by all kinds of appetites – but mainly our appetite for food, drink, money, power, sex, affirmation and status.

However the contradiction being the more we drink from these cups the thirstier we become and the more we feed from these pleasures the hungrier we become.

The crowd failed to recognize that Jesus knew them better than they knew themselves. And he also knew what they really needed.

Not something temporary but permanent – the bread of life – Jesus himself.

He encourages them to go beyond their wants, for what they wanted was not what they needed.

The manna of the world swiftly gets stale, but the bread of Jesus remains timeless, significant and fresh. It gives meaning, clarity and purpose to our lives. For the purpose of life is a life of purpose.

That bread that he is talking about is both his word and his body. This is at the heart of our faith and we proclaim this every Sunday.

It is not we who keep the faith but the faith keeps us. Our promise is to trust in God and take responsibility. Make a plan, for failing to plan is planning to fail.

Manage Gods precious time wisely with a healthy self-control.

Knowing we build on the small to achieve the great, that it is our birth right to be all we can be.

To be proactive rather than reactive. For its Gods ever evolving spirit within us that pushes our dreams forward even when the odds seem too high a mountain to climb.

It's that same will power that offers us the grace to be faithful to our commitments to others and perhaps more importantly to ourselves.

The universal truth is - we are shaped and fashioned by what we believe in. What belief are we shaped and fashioned by?

And God said...hello again Donie.....did you reflect on those questions?
I did...

It seems to me you are taking about my motivations.
Holy moly....very good

Well they are mixed
I'm glad – that's why you need me. Amen!

We are here this morning because we need you, God!

Fill us with strength when we are weak.

Lord have mercy
Raise us up when we fall.

Christ have mercy
Refresh our hope when we are bowed down.

Lord have mercy.

After every great moment there comes a reaction? And it is in the reaction the danger lies.

It seems to be a law of life that just after our resistance power has been at its highest it nose dives to its lowest.

Oscar Wilde - poet and writer, documented after his release from prison: "having been set free I thought I would live happily ever after. But my return to 'real life', this critical moment of freedom coincided with a flood of rethinking and serious depression.

During my time inside I lived in expectation...of a miracle...that burning wish to be free running through meadow lands and trees....when this was granted – what came next I did not anticipate ... a greater nightmare imprisoned me – a sea of dark despair.”

Oscar Wilde discovered - that the cruelty of prison starts when you come out. That freedom does not always live up to its expectations.

Take the Israelites, they left the slavery of Egypt in joy, and set off into what they believed would be a bright future. Yet a short time later they wanted to return to Egypt. They were willing to be slaves again. What happened?

The real trouble began after their release. Freedom did not turn out as they expected. They found themselves in the desert short of food.

They glimpsed little promise of a better life, they were confronted with hardships and trials. The fact is they were unprepared for liberty.

Why? Because of their attitude.

The gospel provides the answer...the Israelites did not take responsibility for their own lives. They also failed to commit to trust in God.

Freedom demands the discipline of self-responsibility and commitment. Manna provided by Moses was only a foreshadowing of what Jesus would bring.

The freedom Jesus offers through his teaching is freedom from – from the slavery of sin, slavery from material goods, and worldly security. His invitation is eternal not temporary.

Just as God sustained the Israelites, he invites us to live in the freedom of commitment in Jesus. It is not us that keeps the faith but the faith keeps us in and through receiving the word of Jesus and the bread of life.

The word and bread that endures and satisfies our deepest longings and needs is the promise of eternal life.

Do we freely make room for God in our lives and place our trust in him? Or do we put all our trust in saving accounts, insurance policies and the things of this world?

The manna of the world sustains us for a time but the word and the food of Jesus sustains life permanently.

As people of God we are called out of slavery to freedom in and through Jesus.

No doubt! We are shaped and fashioned by what we love. Do we love the things of the world more than God?

Think about that.

Knowing after every great moment, there comes a reaction.
Amen!