



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

22 November 2020

Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King - Último Domingo después de Pentecostés

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Happy Birthday to Ruth Ellen Tuesday
- We are now an official Diocese within The Old Catholic Church, Province of the U.S. It will be known as the Diocese of the Southeast. The process of electing our Bishop will happen in the first few weeks of January. As I have mentioned there is only one candidate; Bishop Steven Roszczewski whose church is in Safety Harbor.
- It was great to see most of you who stopped by the church last Sunday to pick up your communion. I delivered to the homes of the rest of you... so everyone can enjoy your sacrament while watching this Mass at home. Hello to Carol and Harry in Iowa; you have yours too. Also, be careful with the communion pods, there are two pull tabs to open.
- Each year we plan what's called a Reverse Advent donation. In traditional Advent season you may have set aside a tiny gift for yourself or others. In the Reverse you set aside a gift of food for the needy -- every day --... So on Wednesdays from 1-2 o'clock, Regina and Vinny will be at the church to collect your seven-day donation. Dec 2, 9, 16 and 23, the four Wednesdays of Advent.
- I am finding a new home for your older, slightly used iPads and computers. They will go to families with children who will not be attending school. Please ask your neighbors and family to donate computers... lots of them.
- Let us watch the news carefully and pray for the development of a vaccine so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
- I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?



And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



Homily

For months we have listened to the Gospels of Matthew. We've walked with Jesus as he taught his apostles the word... the commandments of God. Examples of faith and believing and healing were displayed. Jesus told the rabbis of the time that they were incorrect in teaching and had, in fact, corrupted the teaching of the religion to serve their own purpose.

In this lesson to his apostles, Jesus throws in the kitchen sink. It's the all or nothing round for salvation teaching and for people to see the path to heaven. Jesus knows that Jerusalem and death on the cross is coming.

He tells them of the Judgment Day; when the Son comes in his glory and all the angels will be with him. He will sit on his throne and all the nations will be assembled before him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Now sheep and goats are neither good nor bad. They just eat grass. Sheep gave wool. Goats gave people milk. Both sheep and goats might become food, or a sacrifice to God which was normal at the time. In this parable these animals are used as an example for teaching a message. Humor me for a minute... I really don't dislike goats and this is just a story. Ready?

You people are in the middle... observers.

sheep (to the right) - good

goats (to the left) - bad

Good people on the right, bad people on the left.

(Turn hard right) Jesus said, "You are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom."

(Turn hard left)

"Depart from me, you are cursed. Go into the eternal fire."

In the Gospels of Matthew, it describes Jesus teaching the lessons of God. To love God truly with all one's heart and treat others as they would be treated.

In this parable Jesus wisely uses some parallels to describe those who followed the commandments and were then before the King at Judgment Day.

He said; "You fed me and gave me water; you welcomed me and gave me clothes and shelter; you gave me comfort if I was imprisoned; cared for me during illness..."

Some would say...

"We led the life of faith and obedience to God but don't really remember all those things." "Jesus would reply, "whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

To those on the left Jesus says: "You did not help me with food or water; no welcome or shelter, no care when I was ill or imprisoned."

"Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

Where are you in this story? Judgment Day may come to you while you are still alive. You may depart this earth sooner and have your day sooner. But judgment is judgment, now or later. Will you be on the sheep team or the goat team?

To be generous and kind and treat others as you would be treated is a 'right now' thing to do.

If you say, "I'm working on that," ... That's not good enough. Sooner is better than later and now is better than pretty soon.

If you are feeling superior to those that have less property and riches than you, you are not being a good brother or sister of Christ.

If you are not speaking or acting as a friend to others; if you are not forgiving the rudeness of others and moving on; if you are not asking God to forgive your sins... you are moving toward the goats and the goats are going to a place other than heaven.

As we move into December and the celebration of the birth of Christ our savior, I ask you to see the bigger picture if you are not doing this already. Look around you and find the goats in life. The goats will be more obvious at this time of the year. You can watch the goats every day on television news.

You find them in traffic when you are driving... shoppers in a hurry and showing their goat-ness. Some of your relatives and friends may act goat-ish (goatly?). Pray for them and forgive them if they are not kind to you and others.

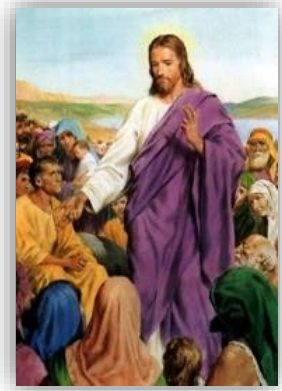
Finally, find your place on the sheep team and donate to those who have less. Be generous and reach out with your hand-of-Jesus.

When you stand before the Lord on Judgment Day you will be hoping for a hand of welcome. Practice extending your hand today.



Evangelio Mateo 25:31-46

Pero cuando el Hijo del Hombre venga en su gloria, y todos los ángeles con Él, entonces se sentará en el trono de su gloria; y serán reunidas delante de Él todas las naciones; y separará a unos de otros, como el pastor separa las ovejas de los cabritos. Y pondrá las ovejas a su derecha y los cabritos a su izquierda. Entonces el Rey dirá a los de su derecha: «Venid, benditos de mi Padre, heredad el reino preparado para vosotros desde la fundación del mundo. Porque tuve hambre, y me disteis de comer; tuve sed, y me disteis de beber; fui forastero, y me recibisteis; estaba desnudo, y me vestisteis; enfermo, y me visitasteis; en la cárcel, y vinisteis a mí». Entonces los justos le responderán, diciendo: «Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, y te dimos de comer, o sediento, y te dimos de beber? ¿Y cuándo te vimos como forastero, y te recibimos, o desnudo, y te vestimos? ¿Y cuándo te vimos enfermo, o en la cárcel, y vinimos a ti?». Respondiendo el Rey, les dirá: «En verdad os digo que en cuanto lo hicisteis a uno de estos hermanos míos, aun a los más pequeños, a mí lo hicisteis». Entonces dirá también a los de su izquierda: «Apartaos de mí, malditos, al fuego eterno que ha sido preparado para el diablo y sus ángeles. Porque tuve hambre, y no me disteis de comer, tuve sed, y no me disteis de beber; fui forastero, y no me recibisteis; estaba desnudo, y no me vestisteis; enfermo, y en la cárcel, y no me visitasteis». Entonces ellos también responderán, diciendo: «Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, o sediento, o como forastero, o desnudo, o enfermo, o en la cárcel, y no te servimos?». Él entonces les responderá, diciendo: «En verdad os digo que en cuanto no lo hicisteis a uno de los más pequeños de estos, tampoco a mí lo hicisteis». Y estos irán al castigo eterno, pero los justos a la vida eterna.



Homilía

Durante meses hemos escuchado los evangelios de Mateo. Caminamos con Jesús mientras enseñaba a sus apóstoles la palabra ... los mandamientos de Dios. Se mostraron ejemplos de fe, creencia y sanación. Jesús les dijo a los rabinos de la época que estaban equivocados al enseñar y, de hecho, habían corrompido la enseñanza de la religión para que sirviera a sus propios propósitos.

En esta lección para sus apóstoles, Jesús arroja al fregadero de la cocina. Es la ronda de todo o nada para la enseñanza de la salvación y para que la gente vea el camino al cielo. Jesús sabe que Jerusalén y la muerte en la cruz se acerca.

Les habla del Día del Juicio; cuando el Hijo venga en su gloria y todos los ángeles estarán con él. Se sentará en su trono y todas las naciones se reunirán ante él. Los separará como un pastor separa las ovejas de las cabras.

Ahora las ovejas y las cabras no son ni buenas ni malas. Simplemente comen hierba. Las ovejas dieron lana. Las cabras le daban leche a la gente. Tanto las ovejas como las cabras podrían convertirse en comida o en un sacrificio a Dios, lo cual era normal en ese momento. En esta parábola, estos animales se utilizan como ejemplo para enseñar un mensaje. Sientame por un minuto ... Realmente no me desagradan las cabras y esto es solo una historia. Listo?

Ustedes están en el medio ... observadores.

oveja (a la derecha) - bueno

cabras (a la izquierda) - malo

Buena gente a la derecha, mala gente a la izquierda.

(Doble a la derecha) Jesús dijo, "Eres bendecido por mi Padre. Heredar el reino".

(Gire a la izquierda)

"Apártate de mí, estás maldito. Ve al fuego eterno".

En los Evangelios de Mateo, describe a Jesús enseñando las lecciones de Dios. Amar a Dios verdaderamente con todo el corazón y tratar a los demás como serían tratados.

En esta parábola, Jesús utiliza sabiamente algunos paralelos para describir a aquellos que siguieron los mandamientos y estuvieron ante el Rey en el Día del Juicio.

Él dijo; "Me alimentaste y me diste agua; me acogiste y me diste ropa y abrigo; me diste consuelo si estaba preso; me cuidó durante la enfermedad ... "

Algunos dirían ...

"Llevamos una vida de fe y obediencia a Dios, pero realmente no recordamos todas esas cosas".
"Jesús respondía:" Todo lo que hiciste por uno de mis hermanos más pequeños, lo hiciste por mí".

A los de la izquierda, Jesús les dice:

"No me ayudaste con comida ni agua; sin acogida ni refugio, sin cuidado cuando estaba enfermo o encarcelado".

"En verdad te digo que lo que no hiciste por uno de estos más pequeños, no lo hiciste por mí".

¿Dónde estás en esta historia? El Día del Juicio le puede llegar mientras todavía esté vivo. Puedes partir de esta tierra antes y tener tu día antes. Pero el juicio es juicio, ahora o más tarde. ¿Estarás en el equipo de ovejas o en el equipo de cabras?

Ser generoso y amable y tratar a los demás como te tratarían a ti es algo que debes hacer "ahora mismo".

Si dices: "Estoy trabajando en eso" ... Eso no es suficiente. Más temprano es mejor que tarde y ahora es mejor que muy pronto.

Si te sientes superior a aquellos que tienen menos propiedades y riquezas que tú, no estás siendo un buen hermano o hermana de Cristo.

Si no está hablando o actuando como amigo de los demás; si no está perdonando la rudeza de los demás y sigue adelante; si no le está pidiendo a Dios que perdone sus pecados ... se está moviendo hacia las cabras y las cabras se están dirigiendo a un lugar diferente al cielo.

A medida que avanzamos en diciembre y la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo nuestro salvador, les pido que vean el panorama general si aún no lo están haciendo. Mira a tu alrededor y encuentra las cabras en la vida. Las cabras serán más evidentes en esta época del año. Puedes ver las cabras todos los días en las noticias de televisión.

Los encuentra en el tráfico cuando conduce ... compradores apresurados e irrespetuosos. Algunos de sus familiares y amigos pueden actuar de esa manera. Ora por ellos y perdónalos si no son amables contigo y con los demás.

Finalmente, encuentre su lugar en el equipo de ovejas y done a aquellos que tienen menos. Sea generoso y extienda su mano de Jesús.

Cuando se presente ante el Señor en el Día del Juicio, estará esperando una mano de bienvenida. Practica extender tu mano hoy.

