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Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 26)



Common Lectionary:

Ruth 1:1-18 (her story like Esther's is worth the read)

Psalms 146

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalms 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 24th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 26)

Made for Love-All Saint's Sunday

Today's gospel is a notable time when Jesus commends a scribe in his understanding of scripture; so profusely that Jesus says to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." In Luke's Gospel, Jesus proclaims "For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you" (Lk 17:21). It is this living in the fullness of love that I believe Jesus is referencing in each instance; an experience that can be here and now, as we love God with the fullness of who we are, as we love ourselves, and as we love one another.

Hospital staff and elder homes refer to "biopsychosocial-spiritual wellness," because health and fullness of life require wellness of our "heart" (emotions), our "soul" (spirit), our mind, and our "strength" (body). The creative love of the Triune God called each of us into being, and God wishes the fullness of life and love for us. When we live in the purity of this love, we can't help but love God,

love ourselves, and love one another.

Why does God have to tell us to do this (more than once!), instead of us simply wanting to and doing so as a matter of course? The depiction of Adam and Eve after they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil sheds some light for us: they felt ashamed of who they were, ashamed to stand in their Creator's presence as they were made, naked. They felt separated.

Christ became a human being to bring us back into right relationship with God; one in which we accept ourselves as beloved by God, receive God's love for us, and share this love with God and with one another in return.

How do you experience God's love? How do you respond?

Please Pray for our Military Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. And give us peace. Amen

Fight Club Quotes:

"The things you own end up owning you."

"It's only after we've lost everything that we're free to do anything."

"If you don't know what you want, you end up with a lot you don't."

"Advertising has us chasing cars and clothes, working jobs we hate so we can buy — — we don't need."

"We're the middle children of history, man. No purpose or place, no great war, no great depression. Our great war is a spiritual war. Our great depression is our lives."

"We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like."

The above is all too often, correct. Really!

Try a week of mindful emailing:



Type out your email. Then stop, take three deep breaths, follow your breath in and out, and in and out, and in

and out. Then read the email. Read it from the perspective of the person who is going to receive it. Think about it from that person's perspective and then either change it or not and then send.

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Refuse to surrender your principles or remain judiciously silent.

That is the problem today, though it is not our theology being compromised as it was 501 years ago. It is our morality. Some churches have surrendered their moral authority in the name of political expediency, and some have sold their souls out of fear that they might offend donors or alienate people in a different political tribe.

Make no mistake, our role as a church is to avoid partisan politics without abdicating our responsibility to moral leadership. Some things are evil, no matter who is in office.

Those who are privileged have responsibilities, and the more privilege they have the greater that responsibility is. We cannot abdicate our duty to our children and grandchildren to leave a better world than one in which someone attempts to blow up political opponents or shoot up people because they are Jewish or 'other'.

You and I must become voices of courage and compassion on

behalf of those who are being neglected, abused, marginalized, discounted, and discarded. Our souls must be reformed by the Spirit, so we can find the courage to speak out for compassion and justice. Professor Dumbledore said in the Harry Potter sequenes: **“It’s not our abilities that what make us who we are, it is our choices.”**

Remember to **VOTE** on **November 6**. It is your American Privilege. People died so we could vote, many in Normandy. Vote according to the Gospel not a party. Be an informed voter.



Recently, my friend (writer, copy editor, artist) wrote a wonderful list of questions to review when you start your day. These are ways to ensure that you accomplish what you want to do and feel good that you've achieved what's important at the end of your day. With her permission, I wanted to share them with you here:

1. Refocus your mind on your why.

Why are you doing what you do?
Why did you sit down at the desk this morning?
Why is it important that you reach your goal?

2. What IS your goal?

What do you want to achieve this year? This month? This week?

3. What do you currently do to achieve those goals?

What are you NOT doing that you SHOULD be doing?
How many "should be doing" things can you do today to make a difference?

4. What growth activities are you taking part in each day beyond posting on social (which is NOT a growth activity, by the way)?

Which one(s) can you commit to today?

5. How much time will you allow yourself on social media?

When?

Can you keep your rules strict and unbreakable here?

What are the triggers that you need to rewire so you stop compulsively checking social?

6. What are your non-negotiable activities for the day?

What will you do for you if you accomplish them?

7. How can you show up as your most fabulous self today?

What are you willing to ignore in order to be the you that you need to be?

What will happen if you allow yourself to be all that and a bag of chips today?

