

April 19/2020

## Second Sunday of Easter

When Larry asked me to preach on Sunday I got quite excited. After a little thought fear came over me, what can I say that hasn't been already said in the last week? The Holy week with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The whole Christian story has been proclaimed. Jesus was crucified for our salvation and Jesus rose and is alive. This gives us eternal life we have been saved. **Alleluia**. I WILL SHARE THE MESSAGE WHICH GOD PUT ON MY HEART

It is one thing to hear the message and understand the message, but how do we accept and live each day what God wants for us? It is not what God wants **from** us it is what God wants **for** us. God has this wonderful gift and all we have to do is accept. How do we reach out and grasp and how do we truly understand the message of the Holy week? How do we live the life of Christ?

There are many aspects involved in living the life of Christ. What is the makeup of a Christian or Disciple? This is truly what God wants for us, to become one of his family.

From the scripture readings for today we here about BELIEVING.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an expressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

It is the belief and understanding of the Trinity that leads us to the family of God. The belief of God the heavenly father who is the creator, the belief of Jesus Christ his only son our savior and the belief of the Holy Spirit our councilor is absolutely paramount in our Christian life.

Now that we all understand about believing let's look at what it means to SURRENDER.

Surrender is near dear to me. I had been living in a very dark world for quite a while. My struggle with addiction separated me from most if not all of what life had to offer. I would isolate and hide from the world around me, I had very low self-esteem and didn't want to face life's struggles. It just seem easier to hide. I wasn't that way in the past and I knew it was wrong, and all the people in my life knew it was wrong. I reached out to AA but that did not seem to be the answer at that time.

Cathie my loving and caring wife, by best friend kept writing me notes and telling me to SURRENDER. In one of Cathie's journal books she had written this. It's all about surrender to God's plan not mine and the scripture on the top of the page read. May the God of peace equipped you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him. (Hebrews 13:20-21). I heard what she was saying, or did I. Being a Christian I felt that I had surrendered. As things got worse and yes I needed help, I decided to go and see a counselor. From there I asked if I could go to treatment and we made arrangements to go to Grande Prairie.

I knew I was going to be in treatment for 29 days and I could concentrate on myself, no other responsibilities. I got thinking about what Cathie was telling me SURRENDER, that is when I purchased a book on SURRENDER. A book by Fr. Larry Richards, I love this book and I

believe it saved my life. It talks about total surrender, doing God's will not mine. After reading the book, everywhere I look and everything I read it talks about and expresses God's Will. This small word WILL has great meaning in the context of Christianity putting God first.

Romans 12:2 do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good pleasing and perfect will.

1 Peter 2:15 for it is God's will by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Hebrews 10:36 you need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

The Lord's Prayer thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it has been in Heaven

We find God's will expressed many, many times in scripture. I did not see that before and know it speaks to me every time I read it. Can we define a Christian as when God's will and our will become one. Therefore our number one goal must be to seek God's will. We must look at Jesus and his grace and not us and our weaknesses.

No matter what your past has been, it doesn't matter. God can give you a new life if you surrender. A life of surrender means that I am a person who trusts completely, who surrenders my whole life, my past my present and my future to the love of God. When I can do that, then I can forgive others because I have been forgiven.

The great thing about this book is it not only talks about surrender it tells you how to go about surrendering. Not many books I have read actually express how to accomplish what they are saying.

The book talks about prayer, spending time with God on a consistent bases. Make a daily habit of prayer, spending time with God.

These are the three steps. Take 5 minutes every day. Go to your place where you feel comfortable, your place of prayer. Be still and invite God to be with you.

- 1) Tell God, I am sorry. Go through your sins and repent of them.  
Invite Jesus to be your savior.
- 2) Tell God, I surrender. Surrender your heart to Jesus and invite him to take control of your life. Allow Jesus to be your Lord.
- 3) Ask God, hold me. Ask Jesus to hold you, and be still and listen to him. Just let him love you.

I would like to end with a prayer from the book.