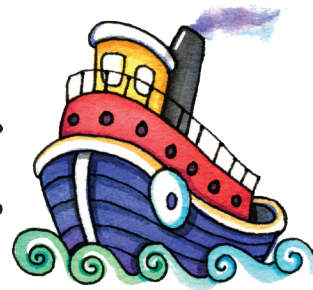


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



June 18, 2023 Cycle A, 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume VIII, Issue 30

Buried Treasures



When Moses went up the mountain to talk to God, he was gone a long time. By the time he got back to the people, they were already worshipping idols. Jesus understood how hard it is to be human. When He looked at the crowds, "Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a

Exodus 19:2-6a
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:36-10:8

shepherd." Jesus understands.

We still must follow God's Law to the best of our ability. However, Jesus came to tell us that He

will be merciful to everyone who comes to Him for forgiveness. He came to offer us an era of mercy. Why?

Jesus knew that only His love and mercy could help transform us into the kind of creatures who could 'fit' into heaven. When we obey God's Law, believe in His Son, and ask for forgiveness when we do something wrong, we develop the kind of soul that is able to 'enter through the narrow gate.' This is truly Good News to share!

LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST

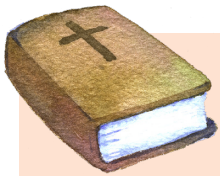
Matthew called his twelve closest disciples, "Apostles." As a matter of fact, this is the *only* time he used this word in his Gospel. The word, **Apostle**, means 'one who is sent.' It seems that Matthew is trying to tell us how important these 'Twelve' were. They did, after all, point to the 12 Tribes that were the backbone of the Jewish nation.

Also though, the word 'Apostle' hints at what Chapter 10 of Matthew's Gospel is all about – going on mission; becoming a missionary! "Christ himself chose the Apostles and gave them a share in his mission and authority... He continues to act through the bishops." (CCC 1575) Our commitment to our Faith



will be measured by our willingness to act. We cannot expect another to do our work for us. We must be ready for anything. As an early Church Father noted, 'the blood of martyrs has too often proved to be the seed of the Faith.' (CCC 852)

We will be hearing about the Apostles for the rest of our lives. It is important we learn who they are: "Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him." Pick one and read a bit about him.



OUR SALVATION HISTORY: *THE LAW & THE SIN*

The Israelites were being taught how to trust God and depend on Him. Until now, people only had themselves and their own law. This would soon change...

Finally arriving at Mt. Sinai, the people made camp at the base. Moses went up the mountain and prepared for forty days to talk with God. Here God finally talked to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments, the Law that was written on stone tablets by the Finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)

However, Moses had been gone so long that the people forgot their promise to be faithful. By the time Moses returned, the people had given Aaron their jewelry and pushed him to melt it all into an idol, a golden calf! Once again, the people



abandoned their faith in God and turned to false gods. The stone tablets God gave Moses were supposed to go into the Ark of the Covenant for travel, but Moses grew so angry when he saw the idol that he threw down the two tablets of stone, shattering them both! Moses had to go back up the mountain and get two new tablets.

For their sin, the people were forced to wander the desert for forty years until a new generation grew up to be led into the Promised Land. Even Moses failed to trust in God once, and he, too, was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. It would now be up to Joshua, the one chosen to lead the Israelites.



Tugboat Challenge

Jesus sees the needs of the crowds and immediately chooses His Apostles, those sent out by Jesus to be 'laborers in the field.' Look up just one of the Apostles in an encyclopedia. What one thing did you learn about this man?

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