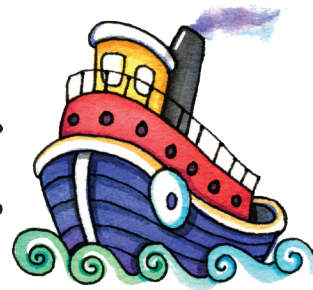


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



July 5, 2020 Cycle A, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume V, Issue 32

Buried Treasures



In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a hint about the kind of stories He will be telling, "I give praise to you, Father... for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the little ones." As we will see, certain stories will only be understood by those with the hearts of God's 'little ones,' those who trust and depend on God wholly.

A **parable** is a kind of story that *compares two things*. When Jesus talks about an action or

event next to an idea, He gives everyone a chance to see

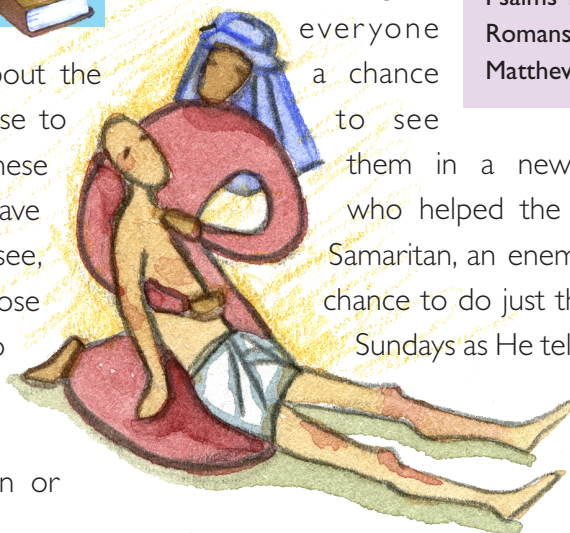
them in a new light (e.g., the one who helped the wounded man was a Samaritan, an enemy!). Jesus will give us a chance to do just this over the next three Sundays as He tells us the seven Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew's chapter 13. Listen carefully...

Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30



Catholic I.D.

All of the Parables of the Kingdom presume we have faith. When we have the kind of faith that Paul had, the kind that makes us want to shout out God's promise, we are on our way. When we feel the passion that fired Paul, we will know inside what Pope St. Leo the Great meant when he said, 'Christian, recognize your dignity!' (see CCC 1691) We are a special creation, called to live a special life: "What faith confesses, the sacraments communicate." When we feel our dignity, our specialness, and live it out, our very lives become sacramental, and we become "partakers of the divine nature." (CCC 1692)

faith

Nothing else matters!

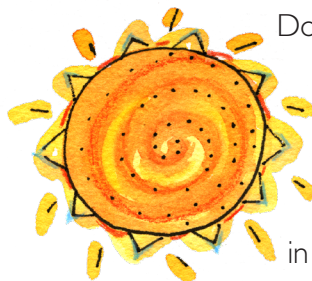
From Your Lips to God's Ear

The time from early July through early August is called the 'Dog Days' of summer. While some may think this name came from a dog too hot to do anything but pant, it's actually called this because Sirius, the Dog Star, rises and sets each day with the sun. And, in Catholic Land, the



Dog Days of summer are anything but slow and inactive.

July's Gospels are filled with puzzling parables, and, in August's Gospels, we will be waist-deep in miracles and wonders. We will use these Dog Days to slow down a bit and think about what faith is, and what it means to have faith and live it. Let's all get ready to sit long and think much...



Our Salvation History: Here Comes the Judge!

After Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, he divided it up into portions which he then assigned to each of the Tribes. Without any kings, though, "Every man did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6) 'Judges' and officials were appointed to oversee the Tribes and keep the peace.

Of the 15 Judges during this time, none became more famous than Samson. Once killing a lion with his bare hands, his strength was well known throughout the land. Samson had made a vow to remain faithful to God. To show this, he drank no wine and never cut his hair. This vow was the source of his great strength. But, over the years, Samson gradually strayed from his vow to God.

Samson married a Philistine woman, named Delilah. Her people paid her to discover the secret of Samson's strength so that they could overpower him. But every

time Delilah asked Samson the secret of his strength, he would make something up. Finally, after hearing three lies, Delilah begged. Samson finally revealed the source of his strength: he never cut his hair.

Delilah betrayed Samson. The Philistines swooped in while Samson slept and cut his hair. Powerless, Samson was blinded and thrown into prison. As time passed, his hair grew back. One day, Samson was brought to entertain those celebrating in their



temple. Still blind, he asked to be placed between the two pillars that supported the temple. Calling out to God for one last favor, Samson discovered his strength had returned. He pushed mightily at the pillars and brought down the temple on everyone there. About 3000 died that day, including the strong man, Samson, but not before he had found his way back to God.

Tugboat Challenge

With a parent or teacher, read either the story of Gideon (Judges 6:36-40), or of Deborah (Judges 4:3-4, 6-9, 15-16). Draw a picture of what made the Judge you chose so famous.

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