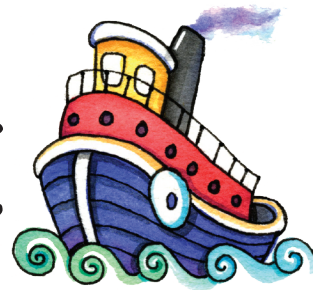


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



September 27, 2020 Cycle A, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume V, Issue 44

Buried Treasures



Today's Gospel parable reminds us of what it means to do God's will. While the 'father' represents God, and the 'vineyard' represents Israel, the two sons represent different kinds of people.

One son refused to work but later showed up. He was like the tax collectors and sinners who heard Jesus and

changed their ways. The other promised to work but never showed up. He was like the elders and all

those who heard Jesus' message but either would not change their ways or thought the message did not apply to them.

It's the same now as then. Do we believe Jesus is God? What is our response to the Word of God when we hear it? Do we do the work of changing our ways? Or, do we think it is for someone else?

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Philippians 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5

Matthew 21:28-32



Catholic I.D.

We must remember that we are a unique creation. We are souls meant for eternal life. This means that we are moral beings and responsible for our actions: "When he acts deliberately, man is... the father of his acts. Human acts... are either good or evil." (CCC 1749)

Christians live the moral life in Christ only with help. "In the Christian life, the Holy Spirit himself accomplishes his work by mobilizing the whole being, with all its sorrows, fears and sadness." (CCC 1769) Just as the Holy Spirit helps us when we can't forgive someone, He also helps us to act in right ways.

With freedom comes great responsibility. We have been given much because we were born for much.

From Your Lips to God's Ear

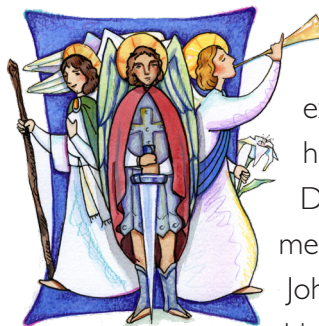
September 29 is the Feast of the Three Archangels. Known for their deeds, these three are called **archangels**,

arch meaning

'leader.' Michael, the warrior,

expelled the dragon from heaven following the Great Disobedience (Rev. 12:7). The messenger, Gabriel, announced John the Baptist's conception to his father, Zachariah, and Jesus' Incarnation to Mary. The healer, Raphael, was Tobias's traveling companion in the Book of Tobit. He is said to have stirred the healing waters of the Pool of Bethesda.

Based on Raphael's words to Tobias, pray the following every morning, noon, and night of this week: "I praise God and give thanks to him; I exalt him and give thanks to him for what he has done for me." (see Tobit 12:6)



Our Salvation History: Solomon's Downfall

Solomon's wealth and fame grew until it was the greatest in all the land. Gradually, he became blinded by his riches and soon, he came to believe all the praise that came with his fame. He married

women from other lands who worshipped false gods, and then he built houses for them to worship their gods. As if this weren't bad enough, Solomon began to worship these gods, too. God was not happy with Solomon. He had turned his back on the LORD and given his

heart to false gods. After God had enough, He said, 'I will tear the kingdom from you....' (see 1 Kings 11:11)

Even though the Temple Solomon built would last for 400 years, the kingdom he ruled would soon be like the relationship he had with God, broken and at war. Solomon ruled Israel for forty years and finally

died. He was the last king who ruled over a unified kingdom. His son, Rehoboam, inherited his father's kingdom and his wealth, but he also inherited the consequences of his father's betrayal.

Of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, leaders of the ten northern tribes came to King Rehoboam asking him to lessen the heavy taxes that Solomon had put on them for his building projects. Rehoboam, full of pride, refused to give an inch. He even increased the taxes.

This pushed the northern tribes to revolt, break away, and name another, Jeroboam, as their king!

The kingdom that David built because of his love for God was now destroyed because of Solomon's greed and Rehoboam's pride. This division brings us to a new period in salvation history. Stay tuned...



Tugboat Challenge

Put the letter of the correct answer in the line next to the number:



- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. Arch means... | A. describes those who hear the Word of God and don't think it's for them or just refuse to repent |
| _____ 2. The son who said he would not work but changed his mind and went to the field | B. Great wealth, pride, and worshipping false gods |
| _____ 3. The son who said he would work but never showed up | C. leader; includes Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel when referring to archangels |
| _____ 4. the things that brought the kingdom down | D. the One who helps us to act in right ways |
| _____ 5. The Holy Spirit | E. describes sinners who hear God and repent |

Answers: 1. C 2. E 3. A 4. B 5. D

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