



TALKTIME WITH SR.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:1-12a

February 3, 2008

My Dear Friend,

The Lord Jesus is reminding us today that we are happy if we live a simple life instead of allowing our mind and heart to become jumbled with all kinds of longings that will just complicate our lives. Our human nature so often is at the root of our conflicts and lack of happiness. Today's readings offer us a life of simplicity and joy. The big question is: Do we want to enjoy the happiness that God is willing to give us, or do we want to seek what the world pretends will give us happiness?

The works of mercy we learned when we were younger are vital elements if we sincerely desire to attain blessedness. We have read stories of countless individuals who have given of themselves without counting the cost, and would do it all over again because they were able to connect with God in an extraordinary depth.

Think back. Isn't it true in your life that in moments when someone else was in great need and you gave your all to help them, you walked away with great peace and happiness than you had ever experienced; and when we remained centered on doing our own "thing" we lacked enthusiasm and joy?

Let us take time to reflect on the message of Jesus in today's scripture so that we may enter the season of Lent with a determination to be released from the chains of mediocrity and selfishness that keep us on the outskirts and fringes of a life impregnated with true joy that comes from being a follower of Christ.

Peace,

Sr. J.



TALKTIME WITH SR.

First Sunday of Lent
Matthew 4:1-11

February 10, 2008

My Dear Friend,

"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." He chose to fast for forty days and allowed Himself to be tempted. And, He came out a winner! There is a reason Jesus was a winner. Being a good Jew, He learned His scripture well and He allowed scripture to be His source of strength, His defense to overpower evil.

This may blow our mind away, yet it is truth. Jesus was so in tune with His Father that Hebrew scripture was on the tip of His tongue and in His heart. He had no intention of straying from what He believed was the root of His fervor and union with His Father.

If we listen to the commercials that bombard us, we hear that it is important for us to be a member of the local gym, to buy a particular product or frequent a special place. Do all the above and we will have no problems. Jesus has shown us that the words of scripture have power over all that we encounter.

If we have not already made it a point to read scripture on a more regular basis than on Sundays, let us make a resolution to pick up the Bible and allow the Spirit to embrace the Word so that it may transform our mind and heart and ultimately our life.

The power of the Word can bring about miracles in our lives. When we encounter difficulties and find ourselves helpless and discouraged, recalling the Word will be a compelling incentive to make a right and holy choice. Let us pray for each other that the Word may be deep-seated within our hearts so that a true transformation may blossom.

Peace,

Sr. J.



TALKTIME WITH SR.

Second Sunday of Lent
Matthew 17:1-9

February 17, 2008

My Dear Friend,

"Rise and do not be afraid." Many of us would like to hear a tender and loving voice remind us to not be afraid. We could almost begrudge the fact that God made His presence known to others while we seem to struggle on our own.

It could be that God has often softly spoken those words within our hearts. We just haven't heard them because we have been too busy controlling and running affairs down here on earth in our small world. The apostles were standing on solid ground, just as we do. In fact, they had fallen to the ground. Maybe we need to fall on the ground too.

Lent provides us the opportunity to do what we ought for the glory of God and our own sanctification. We are invited to walk with Jesus on the way to Calvary. Some of us may flinch at such a thought. Yet, Calvary is a part of our every day life. We cannot avoid or escape the reality of our existence.

It may help us if we were to refocus and start looking for the positive instead of allowing the negative to receive all our attention. Jesus could have made it a point to direct all his attention on the pains of the world for what they were. Instead, He chose to rise above them and lead others to what each could become and the kingdom that was theirs for being people of faith and trust. Over and over, in one way or another, Jesus invited those He encountered to look beyond the here and now to the glory of heaven.

Our perspective needs to be the same. Let us pray that we may hear the voice that calls us to rise and not be afraid.

Peace,

Sr. J.



TALKTIME WITH SR.

Third Sunday of Lent
John 4:5-42

February 24, 2008

My Dear Friend,

Today, Jesus asks us if we really know who He is. We are asked if we realize what He can do for us if we only sincerely ask. Perhaps some of us are like the Samaritan woman who did not offer more information than what was necessary, yet was stunned to discover that Jesus knew it all. He already knew every detail of her life without her opening her mouth.

Maybe Jesus is inviting us to break down the barriers that we have built, to let go of the many excuses we fabricate in order to avoid looking at the truth about ourselves. Perhaps, similar to the Samaritan woman who was considered a nobody, we fall into the mentality that we are unimportant and less than.

We have the invitation from Jesus to abandon those thoughts and look to Him for a renewed perception on life. Allowing Jesus to take control we can cultivate an attitude of love that would bring new life to ourselves and to others. After all, didn't Jesus tell us that if we were faithful to Him we could do greater accomplishments than He did.

It may be that we do not really believe it. If that is so then we really need to take time to be still and listen to what God is saying to us personally. As fallen as the Samaritan woman was, she was open to what Jesus had to offer.

In our fallen state we need to hand it all to Jesus and allow Him to consume it within His Heart so that we can be made into the person of love that He desires us to be. Let us pray for each other that the Lenten season may bring about this miracle of love.

Peace,

Sr. J.