

Sermon June 30th, 2019

Luke 9:51-62

I am not sure why it is but whenever I start writing a sermon, I get a song stuck in my head. Today's song is brought to you by the movie, Sister Act....I will follow him, follow him where ever he may go....then pounding on the key board...I love him, I love him...oh well if you know the movie you know the song.

Procrastinate from Merriam Webster. Verb. To put off intentionally or habitually. Intransitive verb. To put off intentionally the doing of something that should be done.

One of my favorite stories about procrastination is about my youngest sister. Maureen lived with me briefly after she finished college. One day I came home from work and on the dining room table was a book about procrastination. When she got home, I asked, "Oh, a new book?" She replied, "No, I have had for a year or so." I replied, "Was it a helpful read?" Her response, "I don't know haven't read it yet!" I started to laugh, and fortunately she found the humor in this as well.

In today's Gospel as one writer stated it, "We have the cranky Jesus on the road to Jerusalem" And why wouldn't he be cranky. Crucified, laid in a tomb for three days. Must have taken a lot of energy to rise from the dead. One of your favorite apostle's, Thomas, is filled with doubt. All the others,

after all your work teaching them, are so full of fear, they have locked themselves up. He must have been feeling, what had he done wrong, for the past three years of teaching with them at his side and they still had not gotten it. So, he had to lay a bunch of Pentecostal fire on their heads, which seems to have finally gotten them jump started. Doesn't it just give you a headache thinking about it yourself?

And know here we are, getting close to his final days on the Earth traveling with James and John and like the petulant child in the back seat asking, "Are we there yet, are we there yet." They keep asking him questions. I know he is Jesus, love, light and joy. But he was also human. He had had it.

At first glance these all seem like reasonable request in what we would want to do in our everyday lives and what we would think appropriate. But it does beg the question, why are we waiting until know to do these important tasks?

When a love one has passed on, have we already told them what importance they had in our lives? Have we forgiven them for the wrongs or injustice they may have caused? Are we at peace with them or are we filled with regret and anger of things left unsaid or left undone? Would we be ready for the journey if Jesus asked us to follow Him?

When we leave our families, friends and beloveds to we say goodbye like it may be the last time we do? Or do we leave

them a list of what needs to be done. Or with unkind words. Or being impatient with them, like why are you always late, why aren't you ready. We all know the feelings and we all know the list. But if you and or they never made it back again, whether Jesus asked them to follow him or any number of other reasons. How would you feel, how would they feel?

I have a friend that I always tell him I love him after a conversation. He complains sometimes that I say it too much and that it dilutes the meaning of it. I remind him I am older and never know when it maybe the last time. Does our love for one another have to be parceled out in increments? Do we parcel our love for God in increments? Are we the petulant child...? I will follow you but first let me fill in the blanks. I

will have more time tomorrow. I have to clean the house today, pay bills , get this promotion at work, get in better shape before I can ask that person out...My sense is that you are all making your list of what has to be done first as I am speaking on this Gospel. If we are procrastinating about the important people in our lives whom we claim to love in the here and now. How often do we procrastinate in our life with Jesus? I will follow you, but wait, I must bury, my father. I will follow you oh Lord but first let me say goodbye to my family. I will follow you but where are we staying tonight? How often are we the intransitive verb? How often do we put off intentionally the doing of something that should be done?

In the cacophony of religious noise today. Who is loved by God, who isn't, who can be ordained, who can't, what leaders are the next messiah, which leaders are going to taxes us on the road to hell? Who is allowed into this country and who isn't and are they going to take everything that is rightfully mine? In this world where we lock ourselves in and up and out of the endless possibilities out of fear that someone may get something they don't deserve or that they have not earned or haven't worked for. The fear that there is not enough to go around for everyone from, food to money to love. Who can follow Jesus and who cannot? May be just maybe cranky Jesus was onto something.

Listen John and James and all of you disciples. Have you not learned that if you truly have followed me in my love for you and your love for me? That if you follow me in faith, hope and charity and most importantly love. That you and I will already have taken care of all your intransitive verb problems? That the real road isn't the one to Jerusalem but to my heavenly home which soon I am going return to? Can you handled not being afraid of who you are, can you handle that there will be enough for everyone. Can you handle not having power but being equal to me and to all? Are you ready for that journey? Do you understand how royal that will be? Do you not understand that all I have done for you and for everyone on this journey of mine was to be able to reclaim your rightful place in my heavenly home? Because that is what I want for you is to be there with

me. Why must you always take something as simple and beautiful as my love for all and make it so complex?

Hi, my name is Jerry and I am a procrastinator. I abuse it in all forms, noun, verb, intransitive verb. My first step is to start each day making a list and then prioritizing that list. And my top priority today and hopefully every day will be to ask how I can follow Jesus today in love, faith, hope and charity. Because I want to follow him, and I want to love him. I ask for your support in this endeavor. Will you be willing to help?

And all of God's Children say,

Amen...

