

9th SUNDAY A 2008
Mark 7;21-27
Not everyone who says to me,
“Lord, Lord,”
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one
who does the will of my Father.

RIGHT AFTER EASTER MY NIECE KATHRYN GOT MARRIED IN FLORIDA

HER FOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

WITH THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN

ALL MADE IT DOWN TO MELBOURNE FOR THE OCCASION

IN FACT HER 8 NIECES AND NEPHEWS

AGES 2 TO 8

WERE ALL IN THE WEDDING PARTY.

THE FAMILIES RENTED A LARGE 14 BEDROOM HOME ON THE BEACH.

I WATCHED THE LITTLE ONE GO DOWN TO THE BEACH

TO BUILD THEIR SAND CASTLES.

THEY DO WHAT ALL LITTLE ONES TEND TO DO,

THEY BUILD TOO CLOSE TO THE WATER -

PROBABLY BECAUSE THE SAND IS WET THERE

AND EASIER TO PACK DOWN AND FORM.

SURE ENOUGH, A LARGE WAVE WOULD COME ALONG

AND WASH THE CASTLES AWAY.

UNDAUNTED, THE LITTLE ONES JUST BEGAN AGAIN,

STILL TO CLOSE,

AND THERE EFFORTS WOULD BE WASHED AWAY ONCE MORE.

HOUR AFTER HOUR WAS SPENT THIS WAY

SEEMINGLY WITHOUT THE CHILDREN EVER LEARNING.

TODAY JESUS ADMONISHES US TO BUILD ON ROCK.

AND WHAT IS AT STAKE

IS OUR ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

ULTIMATELY, THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT A CHOICE WE MUST MAKE

TO DO GOD'S WILL.

IN THE FIRST READING AND THE GOSPEL

WE ARE CONFRONTED BY BOTH MOSES AND JESUS

WITH THIS CHOICE:

OBEY GOD'S COMMANDMENTS LEST WE BE CURSED – THE FIRST READING

AND OBEY JESUS' WORDS LEST WE SEE OUR LIFE COLLAPSE AROUND US.

LISTENING WILL NOT ALONE BRING SALVATION.

HEARING JESUS' WORDS IS TO NO AVAIL

IF WE DO NOT ACT ON THEM.

EVEN DOING MIGHTY DEEDS

MEANS NOTHING

IF DONE APART FROM OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL.

WE INVEST A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND ENERGY

IN MAKING CERTAIN CHOICES

DURING OUR LIVES,

FOR EXAMPLE:

WHICH HOUSE TO BUY

WHAT SCHOOL TO ATTEND

WHAT CAREER TO CHOOSE,

THE BEST HEALTH PLAN

WHERE TO LIVE WHEN WE GET OLDER?

AND ONCE WE DECIDE,

WE ACT ON IT.

THE GOSPEL REQUIRES THE SAME DECISIVE ACTION.

YES, YOU AND I ARE FACED WITH MANY CHOICES,

BUT THE GOSPEL INFORMS US THAT THERE IS ONE BASIC CHOICE

- THE FOUNDATION, THE ROCK -

UPON WHICH ALL OTHERS MUST BE MADE.

THAT ONE CHOICE IS TO LIVE BY JESUS' WORDS

AND PUT INTO ACTION WHAT WE HAVE HEARD.

WITHOUT THIS FOUNDATION

ALL OTHER CHOICES ARE LIKE BUILDING OUR LIFE ON SAND.

IN FACT, THE FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE IS

FOR A LIFE THAT DOES NOT COLLAPSE

OR A LIFE THAT DOES COLLAPSE.

THE FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE IS FOR A LIFE IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD,

A LIFE WITH GOD AT THE CENTER.

FOR ME, I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY

TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN

OF LIVING MY LIFE WITH GOD AT THE CENTER,

THAN BY LIVING THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE.

AND THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE IS

TO FIRST AND FOREMOST

REALIZE THAT ALL THAT I HAVE

IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

AND SECOND,

TO SHARE THIS GIFT WITH AND FOR OTHERS.

I AM HELPED TO REMEMBER TO KEEP GOD AT THE CENTER

WHEN I RETURN TO HIM

THE FIRST 10% OF MY TREASURE,

AND NOT MY LEFTOVERS.

I AM HELPED TO REMEMBER TO KEEP GOD AT THE CENTER

WHEN I RETURN TO HIM

THE BEST PART TO MY DAY, MY TIME, FOR PRAYING

AND I AM HELPED TO REMEMBER TO KEEP GOD AT THE CENTER

WHEN I RETURN TO HIM

MY GIFTS AND TALENTS

BY CARING AND SHARING

IN THE COMMUNITY

AND HERE AT CHURCH.

I SEE MANY OF YOU VOLUNTEERING

AT THE HOPITAL, NURSING HOMES,

AT CARE AND SHARE AND THE COMMUNITY SUPPER

AT THE LIBRARY, FOR A POLITICAL PARTY, RED CROSS

TO NAME A FEW OF YOUR ENDEAVORS.

AND YOU ARE BUILDING ON ROCK

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE TAKING THE PLUNG TO TITHE

MAYBE 3% OR 5% NOW

AND YOU ARE TRYING TO BUILD ON ROCK

I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN VERY FAITHFUL

TO SUNDAY MASS

AND SOME OF YOU ARE COMING BACK TO SUNDAY MASS

AND YOU ARE BUILDING

NOT ON SAND

BUT ON ROCK.

I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY

TO KEEP GOD AT THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE

THAN BY BEING A STEWARDSHIP PERSON.

AND JUST A REMINDER,

THERE ARE NO VACATION TIMES

FROM BECOMING THAT.

SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY

WITH YOUR ENVELOP.

