

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 8, 2010

How often do we stop and reflect on God's love for us – His  
inexhaustible, unconditional, heart-moving love?

As I thought about this, I began to realize all the many ways that God  
has shown me this love:

- Family and Friends and their support
- SLT and the teens' hearts being converted (daily Mass)
- My personal vocation as a priest and as your priest

If we think about it, I'm sure we all can come up with a dozen ways  
that we've seen and experienced God's love in our lives

The chosen people of Israel saw God's love – His forgiveness (time  
and time again) and mercy and promise of their inheritance of  
the Promise Land

Abraham and Sarah saw God's love – given a son, who Abraham  
about sacrificed b/c of his faith and trust in God

Good servants saw God's love – being prepared for their master's  
return and thus, rewarded for this loyalty by given the gift of their  
master's property – the kingdom and being waited on

We've all seen God's love in our lives – the CROSS and Jesus –  
God's only Son – who died for us

This is the ultimate sign that God loves us

How can anyone say God doesn't love us?

Sure, there are trials that we encounter from time to time that tempt us to believe otherwise:

- A son/daughter who can't kick an addiction
- A disease or terminal illness
- The loss of a job
- Fights / Arguments especially with loved ones
- The death of a loved one...especially a child

But, no matter what we encounter, we are told: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

In other words, don't be afraid, don't be anxious, don't lose focus of the fact that God loves us and would never leave us alone in our grief / misery / sorrow

That is not the God we profess our faith and trust in...rather, our God is one of mercy, forgiveness, and love...a love that is freely given to us to heal us and make us whole

And the moment we give into our fears and anxieties, we stop trusting in God and put our faith in the Evil One

And that's when we fall into sin – over eating, drinking to get drunk, and beating others as the bad servants did

But, as long as we continue to maintain our faith, trust, and love in God alone – who first loved us even while we were sinners – we will be like the good servants who were ready for their master's return by staying vigilant, prudent, faithful, and steadfast especially in the face of adversity and trials

Our reward then will be...get ready for this...for the master to wait on us AND give us all his property

In other words, if we are faithful and strive to live in God's love (rather than in Satan's empty promises) – a love that is prominent in our lives and encompasses all we do and are – God Himself will serve us and fulfill every one of our needs...AND, if this isn't enough, He will also give us the Kingdom of Heaven that is complete joy, happiness, and fulfillment and all we could ever want or need...and God gives us all this AND MORE free of charge at no cost to us!

May we then strive to recognize God's love for us, live in that love, and like the good servants who waited for their master's return, be found faithful, prepared, and loving for when we will see God face to face