

## Homily 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday year C 2022

Jesus very clearly says we have been given the kingdom which means that we don't have to work for it or earn a place in it. We are freeholders. Jesus goes on to tell us that his kingdom is full of opportunities not to be wasted. Responding to the opportunities is our mission. Whatever response we make will be of benefit to others and to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of life, our deepest regrets will be in failing to respond to the opportunities that came our way. On thought for the day this week, we heard about a chap who only greeted people he knew and ignored everyone else. One day he decided to spend a week greeting and smiling at everyone he encountered through the day. After a week of doing this, he started to see people differently and for the better. He also felt much better in himself so he continued to do this. Greeting people puts you in touch with them, with their qualities and virtues, and with their humanity which in turn strengthens your own qualities and humanity. It allows your goodness and your humanity to flow into them and their goodness and humanity to flow into and through you.

David Adam, in his book "The Cry of the Deer" describes a particularly sad instance in a 1960's southern church in the USA. An African American gentleman desired very much to go to the beautiful church that was situated in his town. The problem was that it was a white only church. As he tried to gain admittance, he was turned away because of his skin colour. On the way home, the man came into the presence of Jesus Christ. And so, he asks Jesus "Lord, why is it that I am not allowed into the church"? Jesus responded and said "I'm not sure, I have been trying to get in there for years!"

Opportunities in the Kingdom of God always lead to an encounter with Christ. **However, where to find Jesus** should not be the question you ask yourself. A better question to ask is "Where will Jesus meet me today?" An even better question would be "In what ways will I serve the Lord through others today". Maybe instead of focusing on looking for the rider on the white horse, we could serve starving children or underserved communities. Wherever there is pain, struggle, strife or despair, it is there that we will find Jesus. The real challenge for us is how will we respond to the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives - with love or with indifference??

### **A Doctor is unable to find a local job, so he opens his own practice and puts a sign outside reading 'GET TREATMENT FOR £20 - IF NOT CURED GET BACK £100.'**

A lawyer thinks this is a great opportunity to earn £100 and goes to the clinic.

Lawyer: "I have lost my sense of taste."

Doctor: "Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 14 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth."

Lawyer: "Ugh. this is kerosene."

Doctor: "Congratulations, your sense of taste is restored. Give me my £20."

The annoyed lawyer goes back after a few days to try to recover his money.

Lawyer: "I have lost my memory. I can't remember anything."

Doctor: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 14 and put 3 drops in his mouth."

Lawyer (annoyed): "This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste."

Chinese: "Congratulations. Your memory has returned. Give me £20."

The fuming lawyer pays him, then comes back a week later determined to get back £100.

Lawyer: "My eyesight has become very weak I cannot see at all."

Doctor: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this £100 note."

Lawyer (staring at the note): "But this is £20, not £100!"

Doctor: "Congratulations, your eyesight is restored. Give me £20"

