



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY July 14 & BEYOND”**

**“OPENING YOUR EYES TO NEW REALITIES”**



A friend once asked Isaac Rabi, a Nobel prize-winner in science, how he became a scientist. Rabi replied that every day after school his mother would talk to him about his school day. She wasn't so much interested in what he had learned

that *day*, but she always inquired, "Did you ask a good question today!" "Asking good questions, Rabi said, "made me become a scientist." Another Nobel winner said this: "You can tell whether a person is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a person is wise by his questions." The Philosopher Voltaire said: "Judge a person by his questions rather than by his answers."

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I DO to inherit eternal life?" If we were to judge this expert in the law by his question, we would be deceived. He was not seeking to discover some profound secret about life. He was not even trying to discover the way to God. His purpose was to test Jesus, to trip him up, to lead Jesus to discredit himself by giving some unorthodox answer that would arouse the people against him. Still, Jesus used this experience to open the door of life for all who would enter.

Actually the expert in the law asked Jesus two questions. Let's deal with the first question: "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life? Note, first of all, that the lawyer's question stressed doing something. "What shall I DO to inherit eternal life?" What good action could he take to insure that God would accept him? It is evident that he had no concept of the part that God's love and grace played in the process of salvation. He simply wanted to know if there was some act he could perform that would guarantee that he would be accepted behind the pearly gates.

He's no different from many of us. We, too, want to make sure we meet the minimum standards. Believe in Jesus? Check! Been baptized? Check! Show up in worship at least on Christmas and Easter? Check! Nothing profound here, the man wants just to make certain he's touched all the bases. But note how cleverly Jesus leads the conversation to open the man's eyes to new realities.

First, he shows this lawyer that he already knows everything he needs to know to find life. He's an expert in the law. Everything he needs is contained in the law of Moses.

What is written in the Law? Jesus replied to him. "How do you read it?"

Everywhere he went this expert in the law carried with him a little leather box called a phylactery. Several passages of Scripture were in this phylactery, two of which were Deuteronomy 6:3 and 6:11. These are the two verses which he quotes in response to Jesus question. The expert in the law answers, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

"You have answered correctly." Jesus replies, "Do this and you will live."

What did Jesus mean when he said, do this and you will live? The lawyer was already alive physically. Was there more to life than what he was experiencing? Was he missing something? Is there an aliveness that goes beyond simply existing? The lawyer had never heard or maybe just missed what Jesus was teaching about this kind of living. Jesus promised, "I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10. RSV) To find Christ is to become ALIVE, with capital letters-both in this world and the world to come.

From Jesus' answer to the lawyer it is clear that new life is possible through the power of love for God and love for neighbor.

This coming Sunday during my Sermon I will explain more about this kind of love and how Jesus made it very clear to our lawyer friend that we, too, can have this love and be with God eternally.

God loves all of you and what a fantastic gift he gives to each and

every one of us. Hope to see you Sunday,

Always in the love of the Lord,

Father Sanders+

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:3-9 Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

### CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

*—The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue—*

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

**TUESDAY:** Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

**FRIDAY** AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

**SUNDAY** The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Low Mass

10:30am Solemn Mass

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)