

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, today's Gospel illustrates the entire meaning of the Incarnation of Christ: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost!" His entire life was a mission to bring all peoples back into friendship with God and to establish His Church as that mission on earth throughout the ages until He shall come again in His glory! You know this, why is it that we so readily forget and give into spiritual doubt and gloom; why do we forget the good news of the Gospel and settle on fear of damnation instead? The answer is because the devil wants to deceive us and to drag us down into his own darkness and despair!

The good news is Jesus Christ! In Him we can once again live in the intimate friendship of God; indeed, that is exactly what God, who knows that we are sinner and lost without Him, who knowing so, still brought us into existence, created us! The good news is that we can become what we have been created to be: the beloved children of God, whose Father, is infinitely in love with us!

Original sin spoiled and shattered the relationship between man and God; but God would not stand for it! He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ the second person of the Trinity, to dwell in human flesh, so that He could love in us what He loves in the Son! Ask yourself this question: How much does God the Father love the Son of God? That is how much you and I are beloved by Him!

Zachaeus was a little man, both in stature, and in spirit. It is obvious by the reactions of the crowd, that they did not like him. After all, he was a loathed public sinner; and yet, he seeks out Jesus, and Jesus will not allow any impediment to block his access to the Divine Grace that He wanted Zacheus to have! This is our hope, nor will Jesus block any access to His Divine Love in our hearts, as long as we continue to seek Him!

The reaction of Zaccheus is a total repentance, he gives all that he has back to God. When we develop this right relationship with God of a radical dependency upon His Divine Love and mercy, Grace moves us to live and move and have our