

Pentecost C-8, 2007, NG Series
July 22, 2007
Luke 10: 38-42
Sermon Skit: Jesus in the Car-pool
(A two person sermon drama)

1-(Comes in. Picks up debris on the floor. Goes up to the altar and straightens the paraments. Picks up communion crumbs. Heads to find “his/her” pew.

And notices someone sitting in that pew.)

(Looking surprised.) Do you realize what you are doing?

2-Yes, I’m getting ready to listen to today’s sermon?

1-No you are not!

2-Yes, I am. I’m sitting here waiting for the sermon to begin.

1-How could you?

2-It’s very simple. I listen for the word of our Lord spoken through the sermon. When the grey haired preacher speaks, it will be a longer time to listen. When the red haired one preaches, it will be just about right.

1-But how could you sit THERE?

2-Very easily. I just see where there is an empty seat and plop myself in it. With this sanctuary the way it is you get some interesting perspectives depending on where you sit. From here, it’s really neat to see the pastor’s head in the hands of the Jesus figure back there. And from way over there beside Creedmoor Road the preacher is silhouetted by that beautiful stain glass window. Like today, I wish I was sitting over there, because we’re having (had) a baptism, little Paloma Isabel DeFrank. And that window helps me to remember that I am a child of the living God, no matter what. And there are a whole lot of “no matter whats?”

1-Like the what that you are sitting in my pew today? You aren’t supposed to be there. I am. That’s were I belong. Here I can keep my eye on the ushers, watch who comes up for communion, kind of keep tabs on people.

2-So you can catch up with them after worship in the Narthex?

1-Well...no. So I can notice what they are wearing. Keep tabs on whose children are behaving. That sort of thing.

2-So you are the Good Shepherd police force? I didn't know we had one.

1-You are in my pew!!

2-Okay. Okay. (Starting to move down the pew) I've heard about people like you. But I never met one, until today. You really would demand that someone, like me, who didn't know this was 'Your Pew,' move?

1-I don't see that as a big imposition. You admitted yourself that you just liked to plop down anywhere.

2-So why don't you take my advice. Listen, what if, instead of me, the person who one day unknowingly sat in your pew, it was.....Jesus. What would you do?

1-I'd ask him to move. But I'd be more polite about it.

2-Say what?

1-The truth of the matter is, if Jesus were in my pew, I'd be glad for it. But I might ask him to get a haircut and give him money to replace those worn out sandals.

2-Some how I'm believing you'd actually do that. But wouldn't you want to just take that time to lavish in Jesus' presence, to be warmed by his grace, to yearn for him to touch your heart, to just sit at his feet and listen to him.

1-Sure I would. But I'd still be thinking about that haircut. I wish I could just sit there—but there's so much to do. You ought to see my day planner(palm pilot). Every minute is filled. Why, it's almost to the point when I have to schedule time to go to the bathroom! And now with cell phones, text messages, emails whose got time to sit and listen.

2-Tell me about it.

1-When I'm in the carpool lane picking up the kids I must be on the phone making appointments, calling the repair guy, arranging for this and that. I hate to admit it, but sometimes at church, during the sermon, I'll text message my boss, just to not fall behind. I took one day off last week and had 200 emails waiting for me. At this point I'm more interested in figuring out a way to grow an extra arm, an extra day, than I am to sit and listen. Am I the only one like this?

2-No, I think you are in good company. And the last thing you may need is to feel beaten up and guilty for your life situation.

1-Frankly, I'd just have soon skipped worship today.

2-Why?

1-The story of Mary and Martha hits home. Mary is commended by Jesus, long haired Jesus, for doing what loyal disciples do---listening to Jesus, giving priority to his guiding hand.

2-And that makes you want to stay home from worship.

1-Well, it's like this. I once committed myself to a few minutes each day to pray, to just say "Lord Jesus, have mercy." And repeat that, over and over. Half the time I did that I have to admit, I was thinking about something else. I was miserable at it.

2-So what happened?

1-I just gave up. I'm a Martha. Kitchen. Carpool. Life Distractions, Inc!

2-There's a lot of Martha in all of us. And that isn't all bad. We all have work to do, life chores, and I don't think it's easy or natural for any of us to be good Jesus listeners. May I make a suggestion.

1-I'm all ears!

2-That Jesus prayer you prayed and gave up on. Maybe it was the wrong time of day for you. Maybe the best you can do right now is use your carpool time to listen to scripture on a CD or to break up the routine you are

in. Have you tried speaking to the grey-haired or the red-headed pastors?

1-What do you mean?

2-I mean you are like each of us in a life/death struggle to live your faith. You shouldn't have to do it alone. Speak to others, open up the dialogue, take a new turn. There are things you have not considered that others may offer. I bet a pastor or a spiritual friend would be a great door opener for enhancing your listening.

1-What do you suppose happened to Martha after this visit of Jesus to her home?

2-You mean, do you think she told Jesus to get a haircut?

1-No, what does a distracted follower of Jesus do who is reminded of the need to focus, to get time with Jesus?

2-I don't think we know what happened to Martha after this encounter. And that may be the beautiful thing.

1-Say what?

2-Well, it's a great thing for us to imagine Martha taking baby steps, even large steps, to be with the one who gives life. What if St. Martha of the Kitchen went on to write a book entitled Ways to Become the Child of Christ He Intends

1-You can't be serious?

2-As serious as believing that all of us Mary and Martha's belong at the foot of Jesus.

1-Say, can I ask you a question?

2-Sure. You already did.

1-Next Sunday, will you be sure to sit in my pew.

2-Gladly. And we'll even make room for Jesus.

page 4

1-Whose preaching today? Grey or red?

5

I