



January 4, 2009 Mt 2:1-12

Virtuous disobedience

Disobedience a virtue? Think about it. When someone in authority requests or requires us to break God's law, our only choice is disobedience. We obey God by disobeying. Granted it takes a strong character and a stronger faith to stand up to someone when we're asked to do something unethical, illegal or immoral. It may be our boss or a family member who not-so-innocently asks us to cross the line, but no matter who asks we must stand firm. God wants us to follow Him faithfully, even when the road gets seriously bumpy. The magi followed the star over thousands of miles, but the terrain was never tougher than in Jerusalem, facing off King Herod. To obey God, the wisemen had to disobey the king leaving Jesus' location secret. They followed the star of faith, and by doing so protected the newborn Savior.

What acts of disobedience do you need to participate in this week? Has your boss asked you to "fudge" the numbers? Has someone asked you to back up a "little white lie" or something even darker? Step out in faith instead and follow the magi in disobedience. You'll find the star of faith shining even brighter on your path.



January 11, 2009 Mk 1:7-11

The kingdom of God is like... what?!

The Christian life has been likened to many things but Silly Putty? Remember the stretchy, rubbery compound that when flattened against your favorite comic strip and lifted, showed a copy of your favorite comic? You had to be careful though, or you'd end up with the wrong picture. Are you seeing the spiritual parallel yet? Maybe this will help.

It's a matter of who (or what) we spend our time with. Spend time with bad company and it will soon reflect in your life. The same is true with godly company. When we press ourselves closely to Jesus and His Church here on earth, we're bound to give off a more righteous impression. It's like being a piece of spiritual silly putty - well, like John the Baptist for example. He stayed so close to God, pressed so firmly up to the Kingdom, that people mistook him for the Messiah. The silly putty of John's spirit truly reflected the face of Christ. It's a parable worth pondering this week. If the Kingdom of God is like silly putty, how closely am I pressed to Christ? If people peeled me off the page of faith today, who would they see?



January 18, 2009 Jn 1:35-42

Day-timer dilemma

People have a list for everything these days. Simple hand written grocery lists have evolved into hand held personal assistants. Our days are diced into 15 minutes sections, each prioritized and labeled for easy use. An efficient way to manage time, perhaps, but is it any way to live?

Take a minute and think about your own to-do lists. Any entries labeled, "Watch for Jesus' coming?" What about "pray" or "read God's word"? Well, at least there's "attend church", right? Hmmm. According to our planners we've de-prioritized God. We've lost the spiritual hunger Andrew had as he searched for the Messiah. Pausing on the street corners of our lives, Jesus could walk past unrecognized while we're checking off another "done" item. And we're simply too tired to follow Jesus home if it means another commute back home. It's a sad state of affairs today when God goes begging for a single hour of the day He created. This week let's stop time managing and start living, for God and with God, every day and every hour.



January 25, 2009 Mk 1:14-20

I think I need a bigger box

In the 90's when a re-make of the movie Godzilla hit the big screen, a series of commercials starring the Taco Bell Chihuahua debuted as well. A memorable scene found the tiny dog setting traps for Godzilla, consisting merely of a cardboard box and rope. Hilarity ensued when the monster appeared and the dog quipped, "I think I need a bigger box". The campaign was good for a laugh, and the sale of many more tacos.

But there's more to those ads than meets the eye. Consider how like that tiny dog we Christians are, daily facing a ferocious enemy armed with small tools and great faith. We try again and again as the world laughs in our face, to conquer huge obstacles in God's name. Like that persistent pooch, we stand holding the rope of our faith, believing that our "trap" is armed with more than the flimsy cardboard of human skills. Because we know at the end of our rope is something bigger than us, bigger than the monsters, bigger than all the evil in this world. We believe that when God called us to be "fishers of men" He armed us with all we need. We don't need a bigger box, we've got a bigger God.