

## **LUKE 9 : 57-62**

### **The Capture of Hearts**

**“Let the dead bury the dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God”**

**“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God”**

**What does Jesus mean by the “Kingdom of God”? Are we supposed to seek only the Kingdom of God? What about our lives, our families, our responsibilities, our jobs, College football games, fishing, or whatever it is that we are obsessed with? The word of God cuts like a sword, it makes us think, but only if we bother to read and listen. Eventually, in God’s time His word will cut through the stuff in our heads and get to our hearts**

**In our gospel Jesus is telling us to think and find the answer to the most important questions of our lives. “Why are we here and**

**what does God want?" He is asking, are our lives about ourselves or are our lives about God?**

**Christianity is the only religion in the world that teaches that God has come to Mankind, that God is pursuing each of us. In Luke, Chapter 10 vs. 11, Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God is at hand", and in Luke chapter 17 vs. 21 "The Kingdom of God is among you". Most of us have been raised to believe that God comes to only sinless or holy people, but that is not true. He is present to all of us. St. Ignatius of Loyola's, main thread through the spiritual exercises, and all of his writings and teaching is "finding God in all things". We are living in the Kingdom of God. Jesus in our gospel, and with His life is trying to get us to understand that God is present and active in our daily ordinary lives. We live and move and have our being in God. Our life is not about us, we belong to God, our lives are about God.**

**Yogi Berra is one of my favorite great Philosophers, he died last week. One of his most famous statements helps here, “You can see a lot if you look”.**

**What do we do with the ideas that God created us so that He could love us, that He is present and active in our daily lives that He has come for us? Do we believe it? Have we really accepted it as truth? Or are we more inclined to accept only physical reality, if we can't see it, feel it, or touch it, it is not real?**

**I have a suggestion, accept God, His love, and that he is present in your life, as real, with whatever information or intuition you have, make the choice, then act like you have. Make God an important part of your life, then spend some time everyday doing as Yogi says, look for Him. Watch what happens to you.**

**If you think about it , you have to ask yourselves, what do you**

have to lose? A seventeenth century French philosopher, Blaise Pascal came to this same conclusion in an argument with an atheist; it is called "Pascal's Wager". Paraphrasing he says that if we accept God and there is not, we have lost very little, on the other hand if we don't accept God and He is, the wager may have cost too much. One doesn't bet with one's eternity and the eternity of those he loves.

Pope Francis last week was trying to get the world and our congress to understand that it is the people, God's children who are important, because they are important to God and he is present within them. That if we, as individuals, in corporations, businesses, governments, and in personal relationships, would compassionately value all people, we would be able to solve many problems whose solutions escape us, and our world would be a much better place.

**God simply wants us to help Him capture the hearts of those He loves, especially those in our lives. This is why He asks in our gospel today that we go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.**