

MARK 9: 38-40

“For whoever is not against us is for us”

When we think of what this statement from Jesus in our gospel means, “whoever is not against us is for us”, we must remember that salvation of mankind, of you and I personally, is God’s work, not ours. We have also heard that God has no hands or feet but ours. So what gives? What gives is that God uses all of us individually and personally, whether we are aware of it or not, to bring others to Him. He wants us to be His love in the world. God’s great love for us shines through all us, and upon all of us, whether we believe it, and are aware of it or not.

We might ask then, why do some love more than others, for some it is easy to love for others not so much? The answer is that some respond to the gift of God’s love, to God’s spirit

within them better than other's. Our entire life, should be a response to God's love, because it is our's to do so. So how and why do we respond? We respond by living more from our heart and less from our head's. When we live from our head, our lives are about ourselves, from our hearts our lives will be more about God and other's. We respond so that our joy may be complete, so that we can become the best person we can be. Our response to God's love will bring us happiness, now and for eternity.

Our response or lack of, over time, will shape our hearts. It turns our hearts outward toward God and others, or inward towards ourselves. We must ask ourselves daily the very challenging question, "Which way is our heart turned, inward or outward? It is said that God is the, "Maker of hearts". That it is our hearts that matter.

So how is your heart? We are all a little more selfish than we would like to be. Don't we consider selfish behavior as childish? It is not a coincidence that a behavior we attribute to a mature person, "selflessness", is the fundamental attribute of spiritual maturity.

How do we become, "for", Jesus? It is a process of growth, the growth of our heart. With commitment to become kinder, gentler, and a more caring and loving person, one who can give up his/her preferences, we become more like Jesus. After all it is God's love for us that we are sharing.