

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7
Ps 80:9,12-16,19-20
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

Monday October 9

Jonah 1:1 -- 2:1-2,11
Jonah 2:3-5,8
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday October 10

Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 130:1b-4ab,7-8
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday October 11

Jonah 4:1-11
Ps 86:3-6,9-10
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday October 12

Malachi 3:13-20b
Ps 1:1-4, 6
Luke 11:5-13

Friday October 13

Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2
Ps 9:2-3,6,16,8-9
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday October 14

Joel 4:12-21
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
Luke 11:27-28

"The kingdom of God is given to those who produce its fruit." That's the moral of the story that Jesus gives us in this Sunday's Gospel reading.

And what is this kingdom of God, given to us while we're still on earth? What are its fruits, which we produce during our earthly lives?

Anything we do in imitation of Christ is a fruit that has grown while we're following Christ on our journey toward Heaven. If we love as he loves, forgive as he forgives, minister to others, teach the truth, and heal the hurting, we are living in the kingdom of God now.

When I ask Catholics if they believe they're going to Heaven, most feel very uncertain, either because they're afraid they might lose their salvation through some future grave sin, or because

they're afraid it's not humble enough to answer with a firm "yes."

Granted, we do not imitate Christ perfectly. Most of us will need to spend time in Purgatory being purged of whatever is unheavenly about us, but when the purging is finished, we'll be fully alive in the wonderfulness of God.

If we make it to Purgatory, of course we'll reach the glories of Heaven. And if our desire to be Christ-like is



genuine, Jesus will help make sure that our sins will never be so "grave" that we turn completely away from Heaven. We'll gladly embrace him when he comes for us at the moment of our death.

Whatever you do because of Christ and out of love for Christ, this is evidence that you are living in and will eternally live in God's kingdom.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What good fruits are you producing in your life now? List them; get out a pen and start writing them down. During the week, as you think of more good fruits, add those to the list.
2. Look at the list you produced for the above question. How do these fruits give evidence of God's goodness within you?
3. How do they provide the kingdom of God for the benefit of others?
4. How do they assure you that you are truly a Heaven-bound follower of Christ?