

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2017

1. I want to feel safe
 - a. Most primal instinct
 - b. For good reason, world always been a dangerous place
 - c. First reason God directed families to evolve
 - d. To provide a degree of safety to children
 - e. Only when we feel safe can we begin to look beyond our fears to hope in God
2. As grow older leaving safety of family, preoccupation will be how can I feel safe
 - a. Jesus observes that one temptation is to think
 - b. I will be safe if I surround myself with lots of stuff
 - c. More things I have, the wealthier I feel, maybe I will feel safer
3. Jesus notes that there is a little problem with that
 - a. Things I want to use to protect myself begin to take over my life
 - b. Take the example of a car
 - c. See a car as a necessity to feel safe
 - d. Ever notice the nicer the car the more it takes over your life
 - e. You should buy insurance in case something happens, you have to buy fuel to keep it going
 - f. If it is a new car, you worry where you can park it, so it does not get scratched
 - g. Sometimes the happiest are those with an old beater, no longer have to worry if someone scratches it again
 - h. Or for me who cannot drive
 - i. There is the freedom, I do not have to take care of a car
 - j. When you give me a ride, the car will already be warm
4. In Gospel Jesus invites us to even a greater freedom
 - a. He suggests a freedom that could be exhilarating although it would be frightening
 - b. Starts with premise that we are important to God
 - i. Isaiah asks question, could God ever forget us
 - ii. Of course not, even if a mother could forget her infant, God could never forget us
 - c. Jesus is inviting us to a worry-free life, do not worry about your life, what you are going to eat or drink
 - d. He says look at the birds and the wildflowers
 - e. God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers
 - f. Birds have the glory of flying through the skies

- g. No matter how beautiful your clothes, they can never match a field of blooming wildflowers
5. Jesus is inviting us to a strange, new wonderful world
 - a. We can live without worrying about what we are going to eat or drink or wear
 - b. As Jesus says, the Father knows that we need food and drink and clothes
 - c. If God takes care of the birds and the flowers, why would he not take care of us
 - d. So He says do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will have its own problems
 - e. Enter the kingdom of God where there will be total freedom
 6. Very few of us are ready to take that kind of risk, we just do not have that kind of courage
 - a. Jesus certainly knows how hard it is to let go of our comfort zones, even when they bind us rather than free us
 - b. He is almost like a kid inviting us to step out onto new ice
 - c. He says look I am here, it is safe
 - d. He is saying to us, take a step, take a chance, try letting go of the world and trusting God instead
 - e. Like so many things if we take a chance, let go of a little comfort and security
 - f. We may discover it is not so bad, perhaps we can try another step
 7. God understands how hard it is for us to let go of the chains of this world and live in the freedom of His world
 - a. He does not expect all of us to have a total conversion experience like St. Paul, where everything changes in the blink of an eye
 - b. Rather God is coaxing, come on follow me
 - c. He is saying come on, instead of worrying about tomorrow, come have fun with me
 - d. Begin to simplify your life, one step at a time
 - e. We do not have to become perfect all at once
 - f. Just try one step at a time