

HOMILY FOR THE 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Matthew 2017

1. Zechariah has a strange image for a king, who will save his nation
 - a. Tells people to rejoice and shout for joy but for what
 - i. Not a powerful warrior on a mighty steed, not a knight in shining armor
 - ii. He comes riding on a donkey, foal of an ass
 - iii. He comes meek and just
 - iv. Will banish all weapons and will rule from sea to sea
2. Jesus takes this image even further
 - a. Gives praise to the Father for having hidden certain knowledge from the wise and learned
 - i. Revealed it to little ones
 - b. What has Jesus revealed to little ones but hidden from wise and learned
 - i. Really not very complicated
 - ii. Life does not need to be complicated
 - iii. Just come to Jesus, share our lives with him and follow his way
3. Simplicity is a challenge to us
 - a. When life is complicated, can makes us feel important
 - b. Pride in accomplished difficult things
 - c. Similarly if it takes a powerful and clever leader to solve our problems, we can feel proud of our struggles
 - d. Embarrassing if a childlike leader could solve our problems for us
4. Reality is we usually complicate things for ourselves
 - a. Think of how complicated a lie to stay our of trouble can be
 - i. As new information comes up, we have to add to it
 - ii. We have to worry about keeping the story straight
 - iii. More important the issue is, the harder it will be to keep deceiving others
 - b. Another example is greed and selfishness
 - i. If we abuse and hoard property, we may worry about attracting the attention of others who might want to steal our property
 - ii. Will we ever have enough
 1. Think of highly paid sports stars or corporation heads
 2. Even with being paid millions of dollars per year, they compete with each other for more
 - a. Seldom hear anyone say they are getting too much
 3. Self-image is tied to getting more than others
 - iii. Nor do we hear of many very wealthy people being content with life

1. Often, they are hard driving individuals who can never actually enjoy their wealth
5. Jesus invites us to simplify our lives
 - a. When we feel burdened by our labors and sorrows, he tells us to come to him
 - b. Give him our troubles, let him worry about finding solutions
 - c. All we should seek is to do his will, quietly reflect on what seems to be the next step Jesus wants us to take
 - d. If we are taking his yoke by following his direction, our worries will no longer be ours
 - e. Success or failure will be Jesus problem since we are doing his will
 - f. Often what seems to be failure at first, in long run discover is success
 - g. With this spirit, we will discover just how true Jesus words are, that his yoke is easy and his burden light