Septuagesima Sunday - The 3rd Sunday before Lent
January 30, 1972
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

I Corinthians 10: 1 - 5 I WANT YOU TO KNOW, BRETHREN, THAT OUR FATHERS WERE ALL UNDER THE CLOUD, AND ALL PASSED THROUGH THE SEA, AND ALL WERE BAPTIZED INTO MOSES IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA, AND ALL ATE THE SAME SUPERNATURAL FOOD AND ALL DRANK THE SAME SUPERNATURAL DRINK. FOR THEY DRANK FROM THE SEPERNATURAL ROCK WHICH FOLLOWED THEM, AND THE ROCK WAS CHRIST. NEVERTHELESS WITH MOST OF THEM GOD WAS NOT PLEASED; FOR THEY WERE OVERTHROWN IN THE WILDERNESS.

you get the strangest comments & questions from children - "Looks like you have just come out of a shower."

Occasionally I have been ASKED, "Pastor, what do you PRAY ABOUT when you KNEEL DOWN before the SERMON on Sunday?" And I always answer, "I PRAY FOR YOU. I pray that the GOSPEL may have its a EFFECT on the WHOLE CONGREGATION - in terms of FAITH, of LIFE, of COMMITMENT. I pray also that the HOLY SPIRIT would have ~~its~~ His PLACE in MY HEART - in MY MOUTH - and on MY LIPS. And I usually conclude with the PETITION found in today's EPISTLE - that after having PREACHED to OTHERS, I myself should NOT become DISQUALIFIED or a CASTAWAY."

That's enough to make anyone perspire!

The words of our text are DISCONCERTING, to say the least. They are SORROWFUL WORDS of JUDGMENT. To think that the CHILDREN of ISRAEL received so many MERCIES from God - so MANY BLESSINGS - so MANY THINGS to be THANKFUL FOR - - - - only "TO BE OVERTHROWN IN THE WILDERNESS." That has to say SOMETHING TO US.

The children of ISRAEL had so much GOING FOR THEM. "They were all under the CLOUD that LED THEM BY DAY - and they ALL passed THROUGH the SEA - and ALL were BAPTIZED into Moses and in the CLOUD and in the SEA, and ALL ATE THE SAME SUPERNATURAL FOOD"....
it RAINED MANNA from HEAVEN EVERY DAY. And God even SENT QUAIL to Fresh MEAT - God opened up a ROCK to give them water! give them
"AND ALL DRANK THE SAME SUPERNATURAL DRINK. FOR THEY DRANK FROM THE SUPERNATURAL ROCK WHICH FOLLOWED THEM, AND THE ROCK WAS CHRIST." They had EVERYTHING GOING for THEM - & they blew it! "NEVERTHELESS WITH MOST OF THEM GOD WAS NOT PLEASED; FOR THEY WERE OVERTHROWN IN THE WILDERNESS."

WE have everything GOING FOR US TOO. We have received the "WASHING OF REGENERATION and RENEWING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" in our BAPTISM. We know our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who is the very WATER of LIFE. We have RECEIVED HIS LOVE, His FORGIVENESS - His MERCY - His GRACE, - His PROMISE of EVERLASTING LIFE! Sunday after Sunday we EAT WITH HIM the SUPERNATURAL FOOD - HIS BODY and HIS BLOOD. We have EXPERIENCED HIS HEALING HAND on OURSELVES and on our LOVED ONES - we know the FULL LIFE! And yet I wonder, to HOW MANY of US will those FATAL WORDS have to be SPOKEN: "GOD WAS NOT WELL PLEASED."

We OFTEN tend to TAKE SO MUCH for GRANTED. We take for granted our HEALTH, our LIFE - our HOMES - our FAMILIES, our WIFE, our HUSBAND, our CHILDREN - we take for granted GOD'S GOOD WORLD - we take for granted the SKY that is so BLUE and the SUN that SHINES - we take for granted the GOOD FRESH AIR water - - - as I say, we take ALL of THESE THINGS for GRANTED. But what happens when WE LOSE THEM? What happens when we BECOME SICK - or when a MEMBER of our FAMILY is ILL - or when the SKY is CLOUDY - or when things are just NOT GOING RIGHT ~~in terms of our FINANCIAL SITUATION~~? More important, what happens to us with the GRACE OF LIFE - THE GOOD NEWS that GOD has COME TO US in the PERSON of HIS SON and wants to GIVE US EVERYTHING IN HIM? How often don't we take the GOSPEL for GRANTED? *

Slogan - "once a sian, always a sian!"

Rituals

"This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth & honors me with their lips - but their HEART is far from me!"

Faith - becomes intellectual - not love!

I like the STORY of the HUSBAND who one day thought to himself that he was NOT SHOWING enough LOVE and AFFECTION to his WIFE. Her BIRTHDAY was drawing near. And he said to HIMSELF, "I'm going to make this a very SPECIAL DAY." So he left work EARLY ~~on that day~~ - he stopped and bought FLOWERS and he stopped again to buy her some CANDY. When he got HOME, he did not go in the BACK DOOR as usual, but he went around to the FRONT DOOR. He rang the BELL, - and when his WIFE CAME - he said to her "HAPPY BIRTHDAY HONEY". And she looked at him and CRIED. He said, "What's the MATTER, dear?" And

replied out-of-sorts

she said, "I've had a TERRIBLE DAY - the kids have been ORNERY and AWFUL - the ROAST has BURNED - and now you come home DRUNK." .....The point is that BOTH took EACH OTHER for GRANTED - - and when the HUSBAND decided to DEMONSTRATE his AFFECTION for his wife, ~~the wife~~ she was not prepared for that kind of response "COULDN't SEE THE FOREST for the TREES."

How often don't we RESPOND that way with GOD? He GIVES us His DEAREST and BEST - - His ONLY and BELOVED SON! He meets us in WORD and SACRAMENT - He BLESSES us with GIFTS of FOOD, and CLOTHING, and HOUSE, and HOME, and ALL of the WONDERS of HIS CREATION! He has given us HOPE - the PROMISE OF HIS PEACE - the SURETY of HIS PRESENCE. He REDEEMS our LIFE from the GRAVE - and gives us the JOY of knowing that WE are CALLED to LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER AND EVER! .....And all we seem to do is to take HIM for granted. - No excitement - No bubbling over.

I hope and PRAY that you and I will COME TO HIS TABLE (today) to "EAT the ~~SPIRITUAL FOOD~~ SUPERNATURAL FOOD and to DRINK the SUPERNATURAL DRINK - - - - and that we will DO IT inorder to be STRENGTHEN and FORTIFIED and NOURISHED for LIVING DEDICATED, CONSECRATED, COMMITTED LIVES FOR HIM who LOVED US SO MUCH! Then, and only then, willwe RECEIVE HIS COMMENDATION TOWARD US: "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD." Amen.

With you I am Well Pleased!