

Seventeenth Sunday Ordinary Time – C – 2022  
Gen 18.20-32///Col.2.12-14///Luke 11.1-13

→a man was driving around town in a sweat because he couldn't find a parking place and he was late for an important meeting.

→looking up to heaven he prayed....*"Lord, help me! If you find me a parking place, I'll go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and I'll give up drinking.*

→well miraculously, a parking place opened up right in front of the building where he had his meeting....the man looked up to heaven again and said.... "never mind God...I just found one!"

→a teacher asked one of her young students.... *"now tell me honestly, Johnny, do you say your prayers before eating?"* to which Johnny responded.... *"no I don't have too...my mom is a good cook!"*

→and finally...this past week coming home from Youngstown...I came across gasoline being advertised for \$4.19...and thought what a bargain...and so I stopped and filled up.

→and then thought I would have never dreamed...\$4.19 as a bargain....

→now all of those three stories have a common thread running through them...we like a bargain...

→next week...the Women's Guild will hold its annual rummage sale....and jokingly I have said that it is nothing but a big junk sale **but** someone's trash can certainly become another's treasure....and if this year's sale is like past year's, someone's

trash will produce close to \$5000.00 in treasures....my point is that it is hard for any of us to pass up a deal...a bargain

→AND there is probably nothing more satisfying than to come away with the feeling as if we got something for less than its worth ----- after all, that is what a bargain is...you give something and get something MORE in return

→and if we are like most people, we will bargain///haggle///wheel and deal for almost anything

→and that seems to be the common theme of our readings today...in particular the gospel reading from Luke and our first reading from Genesis

PAUSE

→today in the gospel reading...Jesus teaches his disciples about prayer...and not only about prayer...but he bestows to us the most famous, common, well-known prayer in the history of the human race....

→however upon a closer look at both the Gospel reading and the first reading from Genesis...the common theme of these passages is that they are based on our covenant...our agreement with God

*→ask and you will receive....seek and you will find...knock and the door will be opened*

→in more common terms...these readings are really about making a bargain with God...

→many times...////...very often....we will attempt to strike little bargains with God

→and, this is not only true of you and me ...but we also have evidence of it in today's readings....all the way back to the Old Testament

→in the first reading today.....Abraham is probably one of the best examples of persistent bargaining.....as we heard in the first reading.....he doesn't know when to give up AND bargains the Lord down to 10 people.

→and in the gospel, disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray....they, in effect, strike a bargain with Christ

→and the bargain is that...if Jesus teaches them how to pray....they will indeed pray...

--////--so Jesus answers their request with some of the most universal words known to human beings...he teaches them to pray the Our Father

→however a closer look at the words of the Our Father brings forth some interesting implications.....

→have you ever thought closely about what we say when we say the Our Father and what we commit ourselves too each time we say those familiar words

→ a closer look reveals .... that the Our Father is a prayer filled with bargains.....bargains.....between us and God

→we pray: "hallowed be your name" →in other words...we say "yes...your name is holy...it is to be glorified...it deserves our reverence...and respect"

→AND YOUR NAME CAN ONLY RECEIVE the glory it deserves....when we give **our** glory.....through our words and actions ...our every day dealings with one another.

-----→we also pray: “your kingdom come”....let your kingdom come here on earth, the kingdom that we....as members of your Body.... need to bring about by our treatment of others....through our works and words of charity and kindness

-----→ we pray: “give us this day our daily bread,”....we ask for nourishment so that we can extend ourselves to others...to be present and responsive to them.....i.o.w. give me food...so I can better serve others....

-----→next we say the most explicit of all bargains in this prayer: “forgive us our sins as we forgive all who do us wrong” ----i.o.w. we ask for forgiveness so that we might then in turn forgive others

-----→and finally: “lead US not into temptation, but deliver US from all evil”....do not allow me to be tempted...so that I in turn will not be a temptation to others

→so you see, the OUR FATHER, a prayer that we say daily....a prayer that we sometimes say without thinking...our most common and universal prayer.... is really filled with bargains and all kinds of commitments.

→ones, that perhaps, we never thought about...BUT ONES WE MAKE EACH TIME WE SAY THAT PRAYER...AND ONES THAT WE ARE EXPECTED TO LIVE UP TO

PAUSE

→in today's 1<sup>st</sup> reading Abraham struck a bargain with God to save SODOM and /GOMORRAH

→however.....as the story goes on...we learn that Abraham was really bargaining with the Lord to save his nephew LOT, and because...in fact as we find out... there weren't even 10 righteous people and those cities were eventually destroyed

→////perhaps we might need to caution ourselves as well

→because we strike a variety of bargains w/God, OUR FATHER every time we pray that most universal prayer

→we bargain: to glorify////to share with one another////to forgive////to be just and to be righteous

→[and] these are bargains we are expected to live up to

PAUSE

→it is with courage that we say the words of the OUR FATHER ....but in reality we really don't need courage to **say** the words...we need the courage to **live** up to the bargains...the covenant...the agreement we commit ourselves too

→the OUR FATHER is the most recognized prayer among people today

→but when you look at it more closely...and truly understand it...it is also the a very demanding prayer

→we pray it often....most time without even thinking... or ...realizing or...understanding what we are saying.....

→but each time we say it...we make a bargain, a commitment...an agreement with God....

→and in end...those words really don't mean a thing...if WE don't live up to our  
end of the deal [bargain]