

## **Archive for July, 2014**

July 24th, 2014

### **The Strange Things God Asks Us to Do**

Obedience is sometimes (?) a challenge when God asks you to do something that seems contrary to the norm or to our reality. It makes you want to stop and ask – “Really?” The scriptures are full of “one off” requests. Requests that can’t seem to be real. Gideon is called to lead an army while hiding (Judges 6 – 7.) The angel had to keep a straight face when he called Gideon a “mighty man of valor.” Gideon then gathered an army. (No general ever feels he has enough troops.) Gideon is told to tell those who are afraid to leave – and they do, all twenty two thousand of them. Then God tells Gideon you still have too many men. Can you envision the conversation? Gideon is trying to shake the wax out of his ears. “I’ve got too many?” Unbelievable! Gideon finally gets down to three hundred “dog lappers.” Mighty man of valor – you’ve got to be kidding.

Elijah is called to prepare the sacrifice in his contest with the prophets of Baal. When it is his turn, he pours water on the wood and the sacrifice. And he does it again and again. (How do you expect the wood to burn when it is soaking wet?) And God sends the fire and burns up the sacrifice, the wood, the water and even the stones. Wow! (I Kings 18)

What about walking around Jericho seven times or dipping in the Jordan seven times? Each an unbelievable request for a spiritual victory.

My new favorite story is Jesus asking his disciples to be horse thieves – well more accurately donkey borrowers. It appears to be about the same. He tells them to go get this donkey that they will find tied up. He doesn’t tell them to ask to borrow it but just to go get it. Now Jesus says a lot of amazing things and crazy things too if you include drinking his blood and eating his flesh but – go take the donkey – just take it! Oh by the way if any one asks say the Master needs him.

I don’t know about you but this has to be a “one-off” assignment. This cannot be right – just take the donkey. I can see me going up to the donkey trying to hunch my shoulders to be less visible. Heck, to be invisible would be wonderful at this point. I can see the disciples untie the donkey and start to walk away. I bet they wanted to run as fast they could. Just then, someone growls, “Hey, where are you going with the donkey?” They turn – deer in the headlights – and stammer “The Master has need of him.” “Oh! Okay!” Can you imagine the relief that comes to them? Their shoulders untighten, their faces relax – whew!

What about those “donkeys” in our lives that God tells us to get? What about those things we don’t understand but know that it is God who is asking us to go and come back with a donkey? Could our Montessori calling be one of those moments? Could your work with difficult co-workers, parents or children be one of those moments?

The Master has need of donkeys and people and treasure. He has need of you – right where you are.