



Eighth Sunday Of The Year

The News Wine

Introduction

The teaching of Jesus was new and different and exciting. He himself compared it to a new wine, which cannot be contained in old wineskins. It thrilled the ordinary people. But the Pharisees did not like it because it should up the inadequacy of their own teaching. Is the Gospel new for me each time I hear it? Or has it become old and boring and dead, so that I switch off? One thing new in Christ's teaching was his idea of God as forgiving and merciful.

First Reading (Hosea 2: 16-17, 21-22)

God calling his people back to their first fervor- back to their honeymoon period of their relationship with him at the time of the Exodus.

Second Reading (2 Cor 3: 1-6)

Paul is confident of the success of his work, because success comes from God. Of himself he can do nothing.

Gospel (Mark 2: 18-22)

This underlines the radical newness of the teaching of Christ.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to the Father who sent his Son into our world with the good news of salvation.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the church: that through his preaching people may hear the Gospel in all its freshness and purity. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



Liturgy Cycle B

For our government leaders: that they may find inspiration in the Gospel to work for a more just and a more human society. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have heard the words of the Gospel but whose loves remain untouched by them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may realize that we will never understand the words of Christ, nor will they change our lives, until we try to do them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Jesus spoke about new clothes and new wineskins,
in a word- new times.

He said that those who wanted to belong to these times
would have to put aside the old garment
and put on a new one;
they would have to cast aside the old wineskin
and get themselves a new one.

You we know that he was not really talking about new clothes
but about new attitudes, new standards, new people;
for he condemned the scribes and the Pharisees
who went around in fine robes
but whose minds and hearts were full of decay.

The great American writer, Thoreau,
surely reflected the mind of Christ when he said:

“ Beware of those enterprises that require new clothes
and not rather a new wearer of clothes.
Perhaps we should never procure a new suit,
however ragged or dirty the old one,
until we have so conducted ourselves
that we feel like new men in the old,
and that therefore to retain it
would be like trying to keep new wine
in old wineskins”.