



Don't Microwave Your iPhone

Homily for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, A

October 29, 2017

Church of the Holy Angels

1. Well, the Apple iPhone 10 is just about to hit the market
 - at a price tag of \$1,000 – pre-sale orders are hitting the roof
 - the marketing and ingenuity of Apple is amazing
 - long lines at Apple retail stores, sold out pre-orders, and phones that can't even be placed on the shelves because they're gone so quickly
 - and each time a new iPhone is released there are new features
 - a camera on both sides of the phone
 - fingerprint scanning
 - and now face recognition and waterproofing
2. But a few years back, someone wanted to see just how gullible people really were
 - in an ad that went viral, someone put a realistic Apple promotion called "The Next Big Thing" on Facebook and Twitter
 - the ad was called WAVE
 - and it said that you could now re-charge your iPhone by placing it in the Microwave and the microwave frequencies would re-charge the phone
 - it was a hoax that caused burning and melting phones
 - Lord only knows what it did to the environment!
 - the LA police even took out an ad telling people, "Do not microwave your iPhones!"
 - many people thought they had an easy fix – to recharge phones instantly, rather than having to wait the two hours to recharge
3. No matter how advanced we become, something in our DNA wants quick fixes and shortcuts
 - why read a whole book when you have cliff notes?
 - wikipedia has what I need to know
 - it's a faster, quicker, more efficient option
4. There is a way in which this attitude enters into our mindset, and even pervades our spiritual lives
 - this is what's happening in Matthew's Gospel today
 - we've been hearing the back and forth debate between Jesus and the Pharisees
 - Jesus has been answering with parables – trying to probe them to go deeper
 - recognizing that they were already book smart – they knew were experts in the law
 - he wants them to go deeper

5. That's why today's question is so interesting
 - after all this back and forth the Pharisees basically come forward and ask, "what's the bottom line here?"
 - the Pharisee is a lawyer, an expert in the law and so he asks Jesus, "which is the greatest commandment of the law?"
 - the lawyer expected Jesus to choose from the 613 laws that governed Jewish life
 - rather, Jesus, quoting the Shema Israel, says "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul. And the second resembles it, love your neighbor as yourself."
 - Jesus isn't giving a quick fix, an easy answer, a check off the box and I'm done kind of response
 - his answer is demanding, all consuming, total, life-long
 - and he says it with authority because he knows that's how the Father loves us: completely, totally, fully
 - so much so, that he would give us Jesus himself, as an offering for our sin, to make us perfect in Him

6. We so need this reminder!
 - faith is more than checking the boxes, filling in the lines and dotting the I's
 - God wants us to surrender our lives to Him
 - we come to Mass, celebrate the Sacraments, pray the Scriptures, do charitable works all because it reinforces our primary call to love God and neighbor fully, completely, totally
 - we don't come to earn heaven but to learn how to live out the primary call to love God and to surrender our lives to Him

7. There are no quick fixes, easy answers or instant remedies when it comes to faith
 - it would be so much easier if God made life more black and white, clearer and focused
 - but God loves us so much that he's inviting us to a way of life, a way to expand our vision, expand our hearts
 - and know that true happiness doesn't come from 613 laws
 - it comes from a surrendered heart – a love so deep for God that it affects every relationship, every decision, every thought – always oriented to our eternal goal

8. This week – I would like to suggest that each morning, you offer your day to God
 - I call this "praying my calendar" and it goes something like this:
 - *Lord, I offer you this day – for your honor. May each planned event of my day glorify and praise you. May those unexpected phone calls, and interruptions, and the people I meet this day be greeted with your love, your compassion and your peace. I offer myself to your will. May your love be shown in me.*
 - it can make all the difference in the world between a bad day or a good one.
 - and one more suggestion – "Don't microwave your iPhone!"