



SAINT JAMES'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fremont, California

SERMON

Wednesday: 6. May, 2009

Title: "Put Into Your Lap"

Text: St. Luke 6:27-38

J.J.



Icon: Christ, the Good Samaritan

Have you ever noticed how God, at times, has an “interesting” sense of humor. Yesterday, I was reading through the Gospel for today—St. Luke 6—and I had just read these words—“Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you”—and Linda calls out to me: “there’s a stranger at our door.” Now that is not unusual, we have people coming all the time, especially these days. Most times they are looking for some money (which we do not give out), or they are looking for something to eat (I suspect the word is out there that we have a small food pantry). Now, we sort of have a routine down that works: If Kathy or I are at the office, we will take the lead; Linda is our back up, who notifies Art, who makes an appearance . . . and we do that especially after this last Sunday and the break-in we had on our parking lot right in the middle of our Sunday morning services . . . so, we are somewhat, should we say, cautious!

Well, just as I was reading these verses, in walks this rather young man, not your typical person asking for some help. He explained that he was trying to get

home for Mother’s Day, and had been walking for a couple of days now, and just wanted to rest a bit on one of our picnic tables. Was that OK? Well, you could have picked us up off the floor. We were all set to explain to him that we do not give out money . . . that we could give him some food . . . but he wasn’t asking for any of these things . . . simply, could I rest a bit on your picnic table? He did ask for a glass of water, because he had been walking, now, for a couple of days . . . but that was all, just a cup of cold water. Linda, being the caring person that she is, asked him when he had eaten last. He said, a couple of days ago. So, we quickly gathered some peanut butter, cookies, and a little chocolate pudding. . . . and I heard God laughing.

Today’s Gospel spoke clearly to me, and probably speaks clearly to us all: “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned . . . give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be *put into your lap*.’” Indeed it will! Amen.

S.D.G.

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