

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 20, 2022

In the early years of Luke's ministry of discipleship, the behavioral culture of that time was from the Old Testament: "An eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth." After preaching his Sermon on the Plain which we heard last week, Luke here begins to teach details of changing that old behavior. A disciple of Jesus must base his or her actions on Mercy: "be merciful just as your Father is merciful". Luke begins his instruction emphasizing forgiveness, kindness, and love, rather than calculating our returning behavior.

And yet here we are in today's world, after 2000 years of Christianity, are we any better?

I would like to think we are, at least in our outward behavior. And isn't that what we teach our children? But do we harbor forgiveness? Do we withhold our acts of kindness? Do we scrutinize who is worthy of our love? Do we measure our gift of mercy?

Does our outward behavior truly express what is in our heart and mind?