

Fourteenth Sunday

July 5, 2009

A. Teacher of psychology gave a lecture on “acceptance & rejection”

- basic movement in our lives ... we are doing one or the other all the time
- accept a drink or reject it / accept smoking or reject it / accept a person or not
- the teacher went on to talk about a spiral that is part of our lives

self-knowledge to self-understanding  
to self-acceptance to self-transcendence

- keeps repeating itself through our life-time

B. Acceptance – Rejection

1. Jesus: in his home town ... he is a prophet ... speaks wisdom / does marvelous deed

- although astonished, the folks at home reject him (carpenter, son of Mary, family)
- prophets speak the truth ... sometimes it is difficult to hear – to take in
- poet: Emily Dickinson writes

Tell all the Truth but tell it slant –  
Success in Circuit lies  
Too bright for our infirm Delight  
The Truth’s superb surprise

As Lightning to the Children eased  
With explanation kind  
The Truth must dazzle gradually  
Or every man be blind –

- the people failed in the spiral ...

2. Ezekiel: in the same situation of acceptance / rejection

- he accepts God’s call ... willing to be sent ... willing to do God’s will
- knows that rejection will be part of the covenant / part of the bargain
- why rejection? hard of face (Lincoln: “we are responsible for our face after 40”)
- obstinate of heart (hard hearted ... insensitive ... cruel)
- the people failed in the spiral ...

3. Paul: another acceptance / rejection story ... at first he rejected Christianity  
... then accepted it

- now he is another acceptance /rejection situation ... a thorn in the flesh
- tried to reject it / to pray his way out of it ... no, say the Lord ... my grace is sufficient for you
- life of self-transcendence

C. Eucharist: permanent invitation ... like baptism ...to share in his life of  
accepting God’s will and reject sin ... all through God’s grace.