

**St. Joseph Catholic Church
Nome, AK 99762**

Pastor: Rev. Tom Kuffel

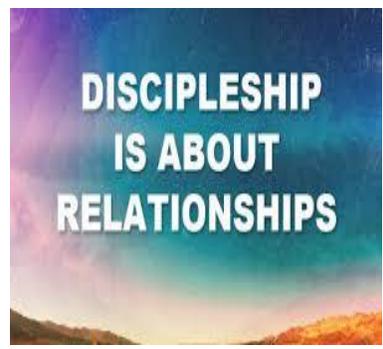
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27th Sunday Year C 10.2.2016

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$360.00	\$	\$0.00

**Stewardship is more than giving:
It is discipleship?
Discipleship is intentional
Discipleship is developing real relationships with people
Discipleship does not avoid the hard questions
Discipleship encounters a person where he or she is
Then it takes that person forward, despite difficulties.**



I am quite disturbed, thinking to myself: "How can God be so hard-hearted, so demanding"? We are merely useless servants, just doing out job (Lk 17:10) Really?

Habakkuk is more disturbing. The whole book questions why God allows evil to exist. The answer given to Habakkuk's complaint disturbs me more, disturbs most. Essentially God tells Habakkuk: Be patient; ultimately you will know why evil exists. Just have faith and trust in me. You will come to know the answer.

Are we disturbed by these readings? We should be! We ought to seek an answer. Study the commentators. Read the saints. Read Job. Read all of Scripture. It is Disturbing! Why is there evil in our world. Why does God cause it?

After your study you will find the answer stated simply: We cannot call God into account for the existence of evil. No! We cannot! We must call ourselves into account.

God has not caused evil, we have.

God creates. He created us in his image so we, humans, are co-creators! Did you read that? We are pro-creators. We pro-create. The difference is we create out of something already created. God creates out of nothing. The first philosophical principle states nothing comes from nothing. God is Someone Who Creates because creating creates love, as our reason to procreate is out of love.

The essential message of Genesis states, which many misinterpret, God and man bring order, goodness, out of the chaos. God and man create together: Man is *co-responsible* with God for what happens in our world.

Creation was good as God tells us in Genesis. Evil is the absence of good, the goodness is missing. Death results from the lack of health. Separation is the lack of a complete union with another. Suffering exists when something is missing. Adam and Eve choose death; while God gave them life! So St. Paul says: "*All of creation groans and travails until completeness has finally arrived*" (Rom 8:22).

Humanity is responsible for the completion of creation. God gives us the responsibility of bringing goodness to a fallen world, to bring completeness to brokenness. Good out of evil. We bring God's kingdom to this earthly kingdom: "*On earth as it is in heaven.*" He gives us the freedom to become what we should want to be and what God wants us to be. We mold our world and life by our choices.

So why do we call Him to task for not having finished completing creation? That was not the Genesis plan. How can we complain about moral and physical evil? After all, people choose war, violence, terrorism. We choose to hate, divorce, and divisions. We exchange evil for evil. Jesus teaches us the opposite. Love, create, and live in harmony with nature, yourself, your neighbor, and ME!

We choose to study medicine to heal the sick, advance technology, instruct the youth, protect the innocent, and welcome the strangers from different cultures. We choose either to eliminate these imperfections or intensify them.

Is it God Who is responsible for our choices? We choose; that is why evil exists. Yet, He commands us to be fruitful and multiply – to be our brother's keeper not killer.

Habakkuk complained about injustice; he wanted God to destroy the unjust. He begged God to obliterate His

creation; it would be better for Habakkuk to call mankind into account rather than God.

Every sin I choose to commit impacts others beside myself. Private sin does not exist. It is a myth to say, I can do what I want so long as I don't hurt someone else. If I sin I will always hurt someone else.

Luke (17:10) tells us we are personally responsible for ourselves and society. Jesus teaches us to do our duty – no matter what. We are responsible. We do our duty. "We have done only what we ought to have done." This is pro-creation. We work with God. We do his will – not ours!

God called us to be co-responsibility. "*I no longer call you slaves, I call you friends*" (Jn 15:15) This is monumental!

God is not a pleaser and does not spoil us, but He empowers us to mature, take responsibility for our life, to pro-create with Him – not against Him.

Pro-creation unites us with God We share ourselves with Him as He shares Himself with us. This beautiful exchange of communion creates unity.

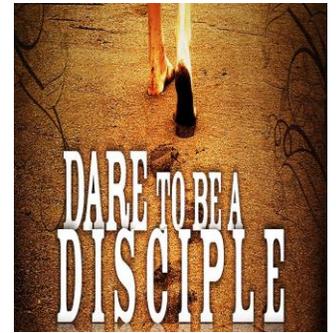
Today Jesus questions us about evil and reveals that individuals cause evil with their choices. We cannot call God into question about evil since He did not cause it; we did because we freely choose it.

We make this world better by taking hold of God's power and letting it work through us, rather than thinking He alone is responsible – to blame!

As any family, all are responsible for the joys and sufferings and each family member, according to their gifts are responsible to make life better. Then, and only then, we realize we are His the sons and daughters that He wants us to be perfect that is mature, strong, filled with his power to change the face of the earth into his image.

Announcements

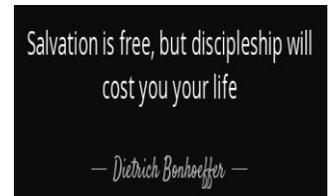
- Oct 3 Symbolon: 7:00PM**
- Oct 2: Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.**
- Oct 2 Youth Group 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
- Oct 2 & 9. Commitment Sunday: The Council asks all parishioners to partake.**
- Oct 9 Family Fun Day at the Rec Center 12: 2 PM.** All are welcome all are asked to invite guests.
- Oct 30th Holy Hour** from 12 to 1:00 PM to pray.



I remind you, to stir into flame the gift of God that you received For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.



Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.



**Don't practice
Till you get it right;
Practice till you
Can't get it wrong**

Why don't Zombies care?
Because Zombies have no dreams.
The Zombie cure is simple –
but not easy

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Oct 3	5:30 PM	Nome			Kuffel Family	Symbolon 7:00 PM
Tue Oct 4	5:30 PM	Nome			Marion. Geiger	6:00 PM Bible Study
Wed Oct 5	5:30 PM	Nome			RezacFamily	6:00 PM Rosary
Thur Oct 6	5:30 PM	Nome			Hendrick's	
Fri Oct 7	8:00 AM	Nome			Vocations	
Sat Oct 8	5:30 PM	Nome	27 th Sunday		Fr. Nelson	
Sun Oct 9	10:30 AM	Nome	27 th Sunday		St. Joseph	
Sun Oct 9	4:00 PM	Teller	27 th Sunday		St. Ann	

**There are no traffic jams on the extra mile!
Because so few people ever go the extra step.
Do you go the extra step?
Which leads to the extra mile!**

Make it!
Don't buy the lie that you're not going to make it!
Patience pays off. Make your makes, learn and do it again!
The fastest way to success is to replace bad habits
with good habits?

Heart formation is true leadership. That is why leadership is lacking. So many leaders are merely pawns in the hands of the media and the contemporary morality. Leaders today follow the power brokers and pander to the hearts of the people rather than form the hearts of the people.

Developing a person's heart; that is developing a relationship that cares enough to connect and correct another person. This is true leadership, because leaders live by principles and not by values which are merely a subset of principles which are subject to change with each generation. Leadership is not just practices and programs. They too are subsidiary to principles because the practices and the programs need a direction that follows the unchangeable principles of life. The practice and programs lack direction without principles. Principles are not even religious beliefs.

Principles are the very hard facts and truths of reality. They are unchangeable realities, unchangeable truths revealed by experience. They are rational, logical, ethical, metaphysical and ultimately theological; that is revealed to us first by nature then God. We are created in his image – not my own image of who I want to be. Principles are reality checks!

Our modern mindset is not very philosophical nor is it theological. It is not even scientific; yet it claim to be, for even scientific facts are subject to personal interpretation. In fact, our mindset is purely experiential which creates a subjective view. That is why so many today live according to a morality of feeling rather than the Principles: Reality of Consequence. If I do this now, what will be the consequence tomorrow or even for eternity, is not a question that many ask?

Values, Practices, and Religion are obviously important, but Principles are the objective boundaries that give definition to them. If you try to break the principles with a value, or program or belief, a person will merely break themselves.

Gravity is one such objective principle that cannot be broken, only demonstrated by trying to fly or float. Cecil deMille when making the movie the Ten Commandments said, "It is impossible for us to break The Ten Commandments. We can only break ourselves against the law," even the law of gravity.

As Stephen Covey puts it, Principles are the compass that point true north. They are extrinsic and intrinsic realities, actions with consequences. Jesus reveals to us that the needle of the compass points to Him: "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:26).

What are principles? Ultimately, they are characteristics that create character. They develop us to be good stewards, or as Jesus calls us, servants. "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do'" (Lk 17:10). We did what we were supposed to do; we lived by his truth and light and we found the way to heaven – the ultimate truth north principle.

This seems so harsh. So impersonal! But is it? Are we not supposed to do what we ought to do, whether someone is watching or not? Whether we are to be rewarded or not? Being a faithful servant demands we follow the principles, we do what we know in our heart is good, true, just, and honorable – no matter what the reward is or even punishment.

So what are these qualities that we are to live? First we are to be men and women of integrity. That is wholeness. We are men and women of our word, we hold up to the higher standards of justice and honesty even when no one is looking, even if we know we will never be caught. We are mature – not sneaks!

Second, we are men and women of faith. We do not live by the subjective standards of the current conscience. Conscience is not subjective so that if I feel or believe it to be true it is. NO! Faith exposes us to the principles – truths – revealed either by nature or by God. We trust the principles more than ourselves and our interpretation. We trust Truth. We follow his way – not our way!

Third, we are men and women of love. We know love is more than a passion or a fleeting moment of the night. Love is an action, a sacrifice that embraces life even if it costs my life. It is the principle of purpose that I am willing to die – not just for any cause, but for the Truth – Love Himself.

Finally, we are men and women of loyalty. We do not abandon the principles; we do not abandon our trust in Truth, Jesus, just because it becomes difficult. As in marriage so as in our integrity, faith, and love we commit to our word. We commit knowing that even if no one else notices, I do. I kept my word for I am loyal to truth. This is an unchangeable principle.

Many today despair because they fail to live by these principles. Many today cry out because they see people living without principles. Today, I become the leader. I do not follow the leadership of others but I lead others to seek the way, the truth and the life of Jesus because when I become a principled servant, I become a true leader.