

Excerpts from 13 Sunday OT Homily (Sun 8 and 10:30 Mass)

1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Luke 9:51-62

**God has placed on my heart to ask you - What is authentic Freedom?
What is this Freedom St. Paul speaks of to the Galatians?**

-How do we find this Freedom, which brings peace and order to our lives amidst the competing pleasures, comforts, and crosses?

-In 1 Kings: Elijah as a prophet of God says: I AM ALL IN! / I am leaving the plow behind / God is first in my life.

“Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant.”

-What leads us to truly be free / To start: Put God first like (Elijah and Elisha).

-And Jesus is the model that leads us to true Freedom of choice.

-In the exact middle of Luke’s Gospel we read:

“JESUS SETS HIS FACE TOWARDS JERUSALEM”

-“To set”: Jesus is RESOLUTE / DETERMINED in His Decision / He trust His Fr.

- Jesus knows exactly what Jerusalem holds for Him.

-And at that moment Jesus knows true freedom / He listens to His Father / Seeks Wisdom beyond the flesh / And His choice leads all of us to Freedom / Eternal Life / Heaven / Because He chose Sacrifice and the Cross.

Today’s pop-culture definition of Freedom:

1.You can choose from among an unlimited number of choices / Options.

2.You can do whatever you want / Whenever you want / Again, freedom consists of unlimited choices / There are no good or bad moral choices of the flesh.

-Following 1 & 2 leads to frustration / unhappiness and anger.

Jesus Teaches Us:

-Authentic Freedom begins when we put God the Father before all things in our life (Relationships / Family / Friends / Work / All the Decisions made in the Body.

-Freedom is not following every passion and desire presented to us / That is slavery / Been there and done that.

St. Paul’s Freedom is when we place God before all decisions / Even when we are in the midst of a hurricane / The Vortex / The wild messiness of life / God will help us choose the right thing for us / For what is truly good for us.

-I knew a young seminarian / Had a Vocation Crisis / Wanted to stay in discernment / Not wanting to make a decision.

-Amidst the noise, confusion, and all of the competing goods of the world / The Flesh / The Worldly concerns / Whenever this young man (stepped out of the world) and visited the Seminary Chapel / Into the silence / Before the “Real Presence” of God / He knew deep down to say yes / And amidst the crosses and sacrifices / and the joys / this priest is truly free today / I know so because he is ME!

-God wants to teach us daily to trust / even during the trials and crosses / Even in the “Messiness” of life / If you make a habit to visit the Adoration Chapel / God, in the silence, will begin to help you make the right the right choices and decisions.

-Do not fret over every little or big decision / Over the competing goods / Even when our decisions are not perfect / If we TRY to put God first / He will bring about a greater good (even with imperfect choices or decisions we sometimes make).

-With Jesus first we find happiness within the ups and downs of Life / Resolute & Determined / We will truly be set free / Jesus I trust in You.

The Two links I promised:

1. Christ Stefanick (Real Life Catholic 2 Minute Video): This is making the right choices while dating, but I think it fits our conversation today about living and experiencing “The True Freedom of Christ.”

<https://youtu.be/92vEkTrntH8>

“Don’t live as if every choice / Every decision has to be perfect. Don’t act as if there is only 1 perfect script God has written for your life and you better get it right.”

“Don’t think: Man if I make a wrong decision today I am toast / or that God is looking down saying “You better get it right today” / NO - God is saying: I love you / I have your back / Take the small steps today and I will bring about a greater good.”

Don’t stay in discernment mode / Act and do / God will fine-tune our decisions when we seek to put Him 1st.

2. Father Paul Scalia writes about the dangers of the extremes of “Legalism” where we follow “The Law” but we don’t know the love of God. And the other extreme of doing as we please because it is all good. “Link below.”

https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2022/06/26/freedoms-two-prepositions/?utm_source=The+Catholic+Thing+Daily&utm_campaign=08fa65eef1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_07_01_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_769a14e16a-08fa65eef1-244259033

