



Homily for  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
08/09 October, 2016

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**Fr. Dwayne's homily follows....**

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Cycle C – 2016  
October 9, 2016  
Holy Spirit (HG)

II Kgs. 5:14-17  
II Tim 2:8-13  
Lk 17:11-19

*“Remember Jesus Christ”*

I. Remember Jesus Christ. These words from Paul's letter to Timothy almost jump off the page at us today. Note Paul – a free-born Roman citizen - is in prison as he writes these words, even chained, like a common criminal, he says. What an insult for a citizen of the state – all for preaching the gospel of Jesus. Paul is suffering and chained – but he says, the word of God is not chained.

Remember Jesus Christ.

II. Throughout the course of any give day, you and I have many, many things to remember: phone numbers, pass words, appointments, addresses, zip codes, pin numbers, the names of family, friends, relationships, tasks to be completed, on and on and on... Many things are remembered automatically – other things require some effort, and, of course, we don't remember everything!

But, rising above all that happens in life...Remember Jesus Christ...should rise to the surface.

III. In some ways, Paul's first century world was much less Christian than we are. Christians were only a tiny minority. They were illegal and surrounded by pagan,

anti-life forces from every direction. In the next chapter, Paul writes,

*“But mark this: there will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy; without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, more lovers of pleasure than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”*

But, do you hear any echoes there of our own times? Have you ever of people being abusive – disobedient – proud – unforgiving – without self-control – brutal – treacherous – lovers of pleasure.... Remember Jesus Christ because we live in a world that does not know him. Remember Jesus Christ because Christians need to be powerful witnesses to the life-saving message of Jesus.

IV. Remember Jesus Christ – within our own faith community. Here, of all places, we should not forget Jesus.

During this Year of Mercy, we have been strongly encouraged to practice the works of mercy. These are very practical ways by which we can show Jesus’ love and compassion to all we meet. Feed the hungry...give drink to the thirsty...visit the imprisoned...clothe the naked...shelter the homeless – very visible, distinct ways of remembering and showing Jesus to others.

We “Remember Jesus Christ” when we stand up for life – when we advocate respect for life at all times and in all forms. Our defense for the life of the unborn - our attention to the care of the ill and elderly – our defense of natural death – our opposition to the death penalty – all demonstrate our belief is Jesus’ mercy and love for all people – regardless of who they are.

V. The healing stories of both the first reading and the gospel point us in the direction of remembering the One who is the source of all our salvation.

In the first reading, Naaman – a foreigner - went through a rather dramatic conversion process from thinking that the only place to worship and the only god to worship was his own back home. He came to believe that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel. But he misses the point when he wants to take the soil of Israel back home with him. God does not work through soil, but through other people – in his case, through the prophet Elisha.

The gospel story is even more clear. Nine Jewish lepers and one Samaritan

leper cry out to Jesus for mercy. Jesus responds by telling them to go show themselves to the priests – because it was the priests who certified whether or not they were cleansed. But where did they head? The Jews worshipped in Jerusalem. The Samaritans worshipped on Mt. Gerazim. Which direction did they head? Did they split up and go in different directions? On the way, the Samaritan figured it out. His cleansing, his salvation, is not connected to a place – but to a person. In this case – to Jesus.

VI. Remember Jesus Christ. Above and beyond the clamor of this world, among the stresses placed upon us as disciples of Jesus, the most important thing to remember is Jesus Christ. Only Jesus gives us mercy. Only Jesus brings us salvation.

Here in this Eucharist we remember Jesus Christ. We remember his broken body. We remember his blood poured out. We remember he gave of himself completely for you and for me.

May we never forget.