

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2010 “WHICH DOESN'T BELONG AND WHY?”

Many of you perhaps know Don Imus by his notoriety that came from his racist incident with the young women of Rutgers's basketball team a few years ago. Just sad that his humor had denigrated to that. Years back in his more creative time, he was a part of my daily morning ritual. And he had a routine that he did that went on for years. One of the members of his entourage would ask the question, “*Which doesn't belong and why?*” And then there would be three things and a humorous reason why one of them didn't fit in with the others.

Let me ask you this morning...*Which doesn't belong and why?* Mormons, Lutherans, Jehovah's Witnesses. Lutherans, because while the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses go out two by two to share their faith, nothing can silence a room quicker than a Pastor asking, *Who wants to join me in canvassing the neighborhood next week?* We're not good at it, perhaps because we don't do it enough (practice makes perfect?). It's like it's not in our genes.

But it is in our baptism. That graceful gift of God calls us to be sharing the wonderful message of Easter with everyone we can. Listen to the Gospel lesson for today...Jesus sends his followers, the 70, out to all the towns and places he intended to go, two by two. But there's just not enough time for him to do it. So they go and they come back with joy, seeing what God has done through them. And that is how the Gospel works. God knows it's often scary to witness by yourself and that's why the pairs and that's why the first lesson that reminds us God will care for us like a nursing mother. What an image. There is joy in sharing the Gospel. Talk to the folks who've been to the Soup Kitchen. Talk to the visitors at our AIDS ministry at Broadway House. Talk to the folks who sleep over with the homeless. Talk to those Sunday School teachers. And time and again you will hear the sense of fulfillment. The meaning. The purpose that comes with sharing the faith.

And it comes too in your one on one encounters, that hurting coworker; the solitary neighbor; that abused classmate...when you share simple words of caring and compassion; when you share basic reminders of God's love; I guarantee you, you will be surprised at the folks whose lives you can affect and change; the folks who will be appreciative for your witness.

Good lesson for today as we send not the 70 but about half that number off to Tennessee to share the Word and the love of God. Talk to the people in the tan shirts next Sunday and they will tell you the joy of sharing the Gospel. Of living the faith. Why don't you see what you can do while we are gone. Time to tell the story.

