

The Question of the Week
“Which of the two sons did his father’s will?”
Matthew 21: 30

We have expressions that we use all the time. “He talks the talk but doesn’t walk the walk.” We know what this means. When I was growing up, we said it a different way. “Big talk; no action.” In Texas, they might say: “All hat; no cattle.” It’s all about the words. Except that it isn’t. One of the things that I have learned over my seventy plus years is that words are at the heart of me, what I believe, what I live, what I do, how I preach. I love words. When I go to confession each month it is also clear to me where my words have outstripped my deeds. I am aware of those moments when I want to pretend that I am better or more than I really am. Except with Christ none of that holds any water.

It is an election year. Words inundate us all the time. There is such a vying for our attention and for our acceptance. Words are thrown around with reckless abandon. I find it personally most difficult to strive to maintain an even keel, to probe behind the rhetoric and opinions to discern the underlying truth. At times I even push the words to the side and concentrate my attention on what the particular person does, what decisions have been made, what votes performed. There is greater clarity. You did thus and so. That is what you decided. That is what you stand for. That is who you are.

One of the things I try to do is to pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit to guide my mind and heart to the truth. Truth is one. There is no such thing as your truth and my truth as if two contradicting truths can coexist at the same time. Truth, by its own definition, is one. There is only one truth. That is what Jesus revealed and it is our conviction as followers of Jesus not only that truth has been revealed but that we are capable of knowing the truth, capable of knowing THAT we know the truth, realizing that as human beings we are hard-wired to the truth. We are made in the image and likeness of God. Jesus himself said: “I am the way, the truth and I the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

In this pandemic, election year let us trust ourselves and our country to the Lord who loves us. Let us pray—and vote—for the Truth, as best we discern it. Can I do that? That is the question of the week.