

SOME OF MONSIGNOR'S FAVORITES

Five Foot Forks

When I was a lad there was a story about heaven that always stuck with me. It went like this. A man dies and he is told he has been judged and found worthy to enter in heaven's eternal life. He is overjoyed and he thanks Saint Peter and as they are walking in through the gates he asks Saint Peter a favor. "Would it be okay if I could see hell and what it is like?" Saint Peter obliges. He takes the man to an amazing gate and they enter. Inside is this humongous banquet room. In it are tables piled high with the best, most delicious food there is. The man is thinking to himself that this doesn't seem to be too bad. So he says to Saint Peter, Are the people allowed to eat the food? Saint Peter said, "Of course." There is only a single rule here and that is that you cannot touch the food with your hand. You must use these five-foot long forks. And the frustration is that while you have access to the best food in the universe you cannot get the fork around to feed yourself. You live in unquenchable resentment and frustration forever. The man thanked him and said that he thought he was ready to go to heaven now.

Saint Peter took the man to the gates of heaven which looked almost identical to the gates of hell. Inside the gates was the exact same banquet hall also filled with the best of all food. So the man began to think that here in heaven we are probably allowed to touch the food with our hands and said as much to Peter. Peter said, "No. Actually there is only one rule in heaven too. And it is the exact same rule that exists in hell. You cannot touch the food with your hands but you must use these five foot long forks to get the food. So the man takes another look and sees all of the people taking the food with their forks and then turning to those around them and offering the food to them

Heaven and hell are actually the same, or better put, God only made heaven. But if you do not grasp the reality of helping your neighbor, if that never dawns on you here and moves you to learn how to do that here, when you get to heaven it will not dawn on you there and you will only think of yourself and your own hungers and your own need and it will never cross your mind that you could feed the other—and the other could feed you.

Judgment. There is a Judgment Day coming. Maybe soon. Maybe today. How are you living? Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty or naked or sick or in prison? I assure you... Yes, He does. He assures us. Let those who have ears to hear, hear God's Word.