

22nd Sunday
8/28/2022

HUMILITY AND GENEROSITY

Today Jesus speaks to us about humility and generosity or more specifically, of true humility and true generosity.

Humility can suffer from a negative image. We think of humility as being a doormat or as having low self-esteem. We might think that humility is about putting oneself down but putting oneself down can be a subtle form of pride. It's been said that some people are very proud of their humility. But Jesus speaks of true humility. Real humility is rooted in truth and true humility is freeing. Pride and ego are high maintenance items. Those who always worry about whether or not they are going to get this or that, or as Jesus says, whether or not they have the place of honor at a table, aren't free.

Jesus also speaks about generosity. God is generous. What God gives us, we cannot repay but we can imitate God by being generous, with hearts and lives that are generous in what we have, in what we give and in how we live. Jesus reminds us that true generosity isn't giving so that we can receive. That can become a subtle or not so subtle form of self seeking. True generosity involves giving to those who can't give back to us. A good question with which to examine our conscience is to ask, *Are the poor better off or worse off because of me.*

Here in the Eucharist we receive a gift that we cannot earn and cannot repay and yet in lives that are Eucharistic we seek to share others the gift we have received. God is love. God loves us. God desires our love and God desires that we love one another, especially the poor and those in need. With lives of intentional faithful may we reveal to them and all, the love of our God.