

Ninth Sunday of the Year

Choose God's way

INTRODUCTION

The Jewish leaders were upset with Jesus and his followers, who often seemed to ignore the Jewish commandments. Today we hear how Jesus chose to put God's commandment of love before the rules of the Jewish Sabbath.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

After the candles are lit, sing the Candle Song together.

SORRY

Read this Sorry Prayer aloud to the children:

Do not be afraid;
God will always love you.
Whatever you have done,
God will always love you.
As a father loves his child,
God will always love you.
Come back to God and know
God's love lasts forever.

Allow the children a few moments to reflect on these words and to make their peace with God.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (MARK 3:1-6)

It was the Jewish Sabbath, and Jesus and his disciples went to the synagogue to pray and listen to readings from the scriptures. A man with a paralyzed hand was there, and the Pharisees watched carefully to see whether Jesus would ignore the rules of the Sabbath and cure him.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he called the man forward and asked the Pharisees, "What does the law allow us to do on the Sabbath day? To do a good deed or a bad one; to save someone's life or to end it?"

They did not answer him, and he was annoyed because they were so set in their ways. Jesus turned

to the paralyzed man and said, "Hold out your hand." The man did so, and at once he was cured. The Pharisees went away and began planning how to get rid of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

A Sabbath is a time to rest and worship God. When God created the world he rested on the seventh day, after completing all his work, and he called this day holy. He commanded us to keep one day a week for worshipping God.

The Jewish Sabbath is on a Saturday. It is a strict day of prayer and rest, when work of any kind is against the Jewish law. The Pharisees strictly obeyed the Sabbath commandments and put the importance of obeying these before anything else.

The Pharisees were trying to find fault with Jesus. They knew of the many miracles Jesus had performed and of his deep love and pity for the crippled and sick. They wanted to see if he would disobey the rules of the Sabbath and cure the man with the paralyzed hand.

Jesus asked them if it was more important to choose to do something good for someone even if it meant ignoring the rules of the Sabbath, or to allow someone to suffer.

What are the most important commandments Jesus gave us to follow? To love God and to love each other as he loves us. Jesus chose to help the paralyzed man instead of obeying the Sabbath rules. He showed us that if we choose to put God's rules of love first, then we will make the right decision.

ACTIVITY

Copy the picture of Jesus curing the man with the paralyzed hand. Ask each child to color their picture and discuss what they see in the scene.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father, help us
to make the right decisions in our lives,
so that we always choose to do your will
and lead lives full of love and kindness.

