Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

1Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm 103

1Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

What the…

You got to be kidding me.

All this is impossible.

“Love you enemies”? “Do good to those who hate you”? “Pray for those who mistreat you”? Etc. Etc.

Nah. It’s not natural.

That’s the point I guess. It’s supernatural. It’s Godlike.

Saul was out to kill David. Saul was envious. He saw David as a rival. Saul and David were at war. David had a chance to even the score. David’s right hand man, Abishai, had Saul dead to rights. David said no because Saul was God’s anointed king. Now David was no prize as a man. He lies, murders, commits adultery and when David became king, his own sons tried to kill him. But at this moment in the history of Israel, David steps into the mystery of mercy. David lets Saul live. Unbelievable. At that moment in the desert of Ziph, David is aglow with divine mercy.

Our second reading from Corinthians explains. Adam was created human. That is the first level of being. Adam then is bumped up to another level of being – the spiritual one and bears the image of the heavenly one. (As an aside, it’s the same way with atoms. The electrons floating around the nucleus gets pumped up to another level when new energy is applied or they are knocked off course completely. And the original atom is changed. But I digress.)

In our Gospel, what Jesus is teaching his disciples is crazy. It’s not the natural course of things. His disciples were probably scratching their heads. If they do what he teaches, they would become vulnerable to so many things – being called sissies, being cheated, having no room for justice in this world. They could be killed. The things Jesus says would make them look foolish. “Love our enemies”? Not humanly possible. But with the energy of the Holy Spirit, all things are possible. Humans can take on the glow of the supernatural. And the natural thing to do is not compatible with a new way of living, a new energy of living.

Even with the cloak of the supernatural, there is always the chance that people who don’t recognize that level of being or aren’t at that level themselves can still cause harm. Jesus knows that. Just look at him on the cross. He revealed what humans could become if they accept the mystery of mercy. He was killed anyways. But was he really? At his level of being, nobody could touch him. Nobody could kill that person. In the end, that human, Adam-like person who put on the cloak of the divine rose up to a life that was everlasting. And Jesus became our hero.

There have been times or there will be times when we have that extraordinary moment, that heroic moment, when we mere mortals can become heroes during moments of divine mercy. When we do turn the other cheek. When we do pray for those who mistreat us. When we go way above what is expected as a human being, even to the point of laying down our mere mortal lives so that others can live.

So be ready. Be ready for that grace-filled moment when we open ourselves up to the divine energy that pushes us to that other level for the measure you measure with will in return be measured out to you.

The Lord is kind and merciful and in that moment when we are given the opportunity to be kind and merciful, we are the Lord’s disciples.