

Growing up in the seventies, I was exposed to music that came from what was sometimes called the “British Invasion.” Bands like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and the Who.

A very good friend friend of mine from elementary school through high school was a huge fan of the Who. The Who were in that grey area between the first British Invasion bands and the music that later became known as Punk Rock.

Not being as much a fan as he was, the only song I even can remember by the Who is from 1978, titled “Who are you?” ... which repeats over and over again “Who are you?” “Who, who, who, who?” “I really wanna know.” Over and over and over and over ... after a while, it sort of gets a bit hypnotic.

In today’s first reading, we hear about the call of Jeremiah - where God tells the prophet that He called him from before he was ever born.

Before Jeremiah can get too excited about that, God goes on to tell him not to let his opponents crush him, and that his message will be fought against ... but in the end God will deliver Jeremiah.

In the first reading, we see that in being called by God, we discover who we are - regardless of our circumstances, or our present conditions.

In the second reading, St. Paul continues talking about the spiritual gifts that we have been hearing about over the past few weeks. Yet, what St. Paul stresses is this: the gifts you have, no matter how wonderful they may be, are useless unless they are exercised in LOVE.

Just to clarify, there are three different words used for LOVE in the Greek. One is for the bond of affection between siblings and friends - a sort of *brotherly love*. The second is for the bond of affection between a husband and wife in marriage - what can be called *romantic love*. And the third is a LOVE that is all-giving, and self-sacrificing. The sort of LOVE that comes out in heroic tales ... the exact LOVE that God has for us ... and pours out upon us every minute of every day.

St. Paul is saying that unless this third type of LOVE, the all-giving and self-sacrificing LOVE, is at work in the use of any of our gifts or talents - spiritual or material ... that without this highest form of LOVE any of our gifts are actually being used for naught.

In the second reading, we see that we are called to imitate God in the way He loves ... and we discover who we are without love ... as St. Paul says it, without LOVE, “I am nothing.” In other words, without God, we are nothing.

The Gospel continues, as well, from last week. Jesus has ‘done well’ in the eyes of the people of His hometown. Yet, when He further explains that His mission is more than just staying in Nazareth, and is beyond what they might expect of him - he is met with outrage and violence.

In the Gospel, we see that like Jesus, when we act to fulfill God’s call for us ... that call very well may take us beyond our own expectations or even our own desires. Who we are, in God’s plan, may be more than who we are in our own plans.

And so, as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; let us pray to truly know who we are in relationship to God, Who is LOVE; and to conduct ourselves in His LOVE - while remaining in service to Him Who is LOVE; as well as being open to embracing His Will - with LOVE - should He call us to move beyond where we are, or where we may be comfortable.

Being who we are in the eyes of God, Who is LOVE ... called to be the beloved daughters and sons of the Father, redeemed in Christ, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.