

**Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020**

Gal2:1-2.7-14; Lk11:14

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Jesus taught us how to pray, but the reading from Galatians triggered this thought in me ...

“But we have always done it this way,” said the second-year novice. “Little Sister,” said the Novice Directress, “we did it differently last year and will probably do it another way next year. It is not incorrect to change.”

I’m sure most of us grew up thinking “we’ve always done it this way.” Whether we came from big city, small town, rural area in the northwest or Alabama, there were family traditions, school procedures, civic holidays, county fairs, neighborhood events that had a feeling of “we’ve always done it this way,” which made us comfortable – unless the way was changed.

Imagine the first century Jews who had lived following the LAW, the TORAH, which dictated every detail of life for a good Jew as one of the chosen people. The Gentiles, the pagan worshippers, were not part of them.

Imagine the horror when the Judaizers stirred up trouble because St. Peter had eaten with Gentiles and tried to shame him. Imagine the pain of the confrontation when St. Paul said that – just as he was sent to the Gentiles, Peter was sent to the Jews – both were blessed in their ministries. Imagine the pain of realizing that the centuries-old laws, so carefully followed were disregarded. Now, there was the Law of Christ. Truly earth-shaking realizations for new Christians.

So what is this to me? To you?

We began this morning by remembering things we “had always done this way.” Whether prayers at home, worship in church, travel by horse, car or streetcar, there were familiar patterns. But something happened. We grew up. Became educated, questioned EVERYTHING and learned that the patterns of always may not be the best for our lives, our world, the common good, future generations.

We learned in the 1950s through the International Geophysical Year explorations into the arctic that polar ice had traces from the Industrial Revolution. Smoke from massive industrial development, steam-powered locomotives and ships etc. had left their mark.

We have learned that fracking in order to gain more profit from Earth pollutes not only the earth but also the ground waters that provide life for humans and other living things. We have learned that those cute little plastic containers that make life so convenient, delicious, fun and decorative are not recyclable and are polluting air, land and water.

On my way from Telegraph to Fort Street some time ago, I noticed a huge hill, almost a small mountain, with tractors moving around the top. I phoned the city hall there and asked what it was. There was no other such rise in the local topography. “Oh. That is the landfill.”

I have lived a life benefitting from the developments of industry and science. I have done my share to contribute to the situation in which we are now living. I can say I'm sorry for what I have done and for what I have failed to do. If you can confess the same, perhaps we can stop saying, "But we've always done it this way," and work with science, theology, psychology and geology to learn new ways of living on Earth and with each other.

And perhaps we will have different realizations when we pray  
Father, forgive us  
For we forgive  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.