

# Second Hand Preacher

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*

March 6, 2016

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be an ambassador to your favorite country? To represent the American Government in a place where it may not always be welcome could be a tall order. Do you have the diplomacy to pull it off? I think it would take faith in who you represent and a willingness to bridge the gap with the one you were sent to. Are we called to this?

St. Paul certainly called the Christians in Corinth to this noble task. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ. The one who made no sin, yet died for our sins wants us to represent him. These early Christians were willing to risk their lives in order that Christ be proclaimed. Many would die for their faith following in the footsteps of Jesus. How many of us would take that bold step? How many of us are willing to die in order to represent Jesus?

We are to represent him within a saving action. This is reconciliation. Jesus forgives us without question or merit, armed only with the promise that we will try and sin no more. He knows we will fail in this, but loves us so much he offers the reconciliation any way. This reconciliation is not just to be received, but to be truly given. This abundant reconciliation is to be shared with those around us so that we can glorify God together. We reconcile not only to get along, but it is far deeper than that. We reconcile so that our hearts are fully prepared to take in the beauty and wonder of a God who is everything for us. He cares for us so much and our only response can be to love him and at the very same time to love others. So let us together claim that role of ambassador as to live in the light of freedom. We represent Christ and we take the reconciling love of Christ into a world in need, just like the Corinthians did it 2000 years ago.