

Second Hand Preacher

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

At one time or another, we have all been a bit self-conscious. Someone makes a comment or looks at us funny and we feel we are being judged. No one likes that feeling. In fact, there are times we avoid certain situations so we are not judged. People crave understanding, not judgment. How many people like to be on trial? I used to watch some of those court shows and think how glad I was to not be the one on trial.

St. Paul said that he doesn't worry about the judgment of others. He doesn't let human beings have that kind of power over him. He withstood much persecution in his time and actually gave up his life for the faith. He didn't believe anyone in this life could make a judgment that could harm him. The new Christians in Corinth probably had many fears based on what people thought of them. They may not have been as convicted as Paul was and they worried for their lives about how people would judge them. Paul wants them only to worry about judgment from a merciful God.

God is a just judge who loves each of us. He longs to forgive us if we are willing to forgive others and ourselves. God doesn't want us to unjustly judge others. We may be called upon to give our community order, but to never be harsh and unwilling to reconcile. Our God longs for a justice that makes us all an integral part of the community. We all have a place in the community of God where we are judged lovingly by what we do and by who loves us. Since the one who loves us the most is God, then we have nothing to worry about no matter who chooses to judge us.