

Sermon- Our Savior's Lutheran Church- 9/22/2019

Text- John 6:60-68

## Where Should We Go?

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ. What a great time it is in Wisconsin, especially if you are a sports junkie. We have our beloved Packers who should beat the Broncos today. We have our Badgers, not to mention all of the high school games. And the Brewers, who are hoping for that post season play. Many households see people switching channels between the Pack and the Brewers.

Baseball. When I grew up, especially as a teenager in Brooklyn, Baseball was king. We had three major league teams, the wonderful Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Giants, and the hated New York Yankees. Each team had a superstar center fielder, Duke Snyder, Willie Mays, and Mickey Mantle. The New York Yankees had an iconic catcher, #8, Yogi Berra who was known more for his truisms than his baseball prowess.

"No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded."

"Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical."

"It ain't over till it's over."

"It's like déjà vu all over again."

But the one that has to do with our Gospel this morning was, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it". (Yogi was giving directions to Joe Garigiola, another baseball friend who grew up on "The Hill," an Italian-American section of St Louis, to his home in New Jersey). Yogi was telling him to not stand there looking at the fork, but to go, to commit. Take the shot and go.

Which leads me to the Gospel for today and what it means for us. Especially as Pastor Jon arrives in about 10 days.

Jesus has been teaching the disciples what it means to be a true follower. Not an easy path. Many of the followers were grumbling among themselves saying, "this is tough teaching, too tough to swallow."

And our Gospel says that some of his disciples, (remember that the total was way more than the inner 12) began to leave the journey. So, for me, it was quite understandable that Jesus looked at the inner 12, the core, and asked if they were going as well. It's Peter, who very often speaks without a TelePrompTer, who says, "Lord, where are we going to go?" "You have the words of eternal life!"

So what's it all about, Alfie, what does this have to do with us at Our Savior's Lutheran. The early disciples came to the fork in the road and took it, they committed.

In just a short time, Pastor Jon will arrive and begin his ministry with you. Very likely he will encourage you as you come to the fork in the road to take it, to commit. Very likely he will look at Worship attendance and ask for a change. Our worship life needs to be more than the old concept of "Hatched, Matched and Dispatched" - more than Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Very likely he will encourage more than monthly attendance at worship. Kind of like the old saying about voting in Chicago. Vote early and often. Come to Worship often. Very likely he will want more than 23% worship on any given Sunday. If that is the fork in the road, take it - commit.

Very likely Pastor Jon will encourage greater involvement in your giving to Our Saviors. Perhaps the fork in the road is simply giving. You know how important that is. Take it, commit. Or maybe the fork in the road is pledging - you know how important that is - take it, commit.

Very likely Pastor Jon will encourage greater involvement in the life of this congregation with using your time and talents. You know, not to hide your light under a bushel basket. If that is your fork in the road, take it, commit.

Maybe the fork in the road is reaching out to our neighbors. Here in the community as well as the world. Pillars meals, mission trips, food pantries. Oh Jesus, "This is tough teaching, too tough to follow!" Is that the fork in the road for you? Well take it, commit.

In about 10 days, a new day will arrive at Our Savior's. It is an exciting time. Your hopes and dreams will begin to be fulfilled. Back in August, you met as a

congregation and unanimously voted to call Pastor Jon as your new Pastor at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Wow.

But, for sure, over the next few months and years there will be forks in the road. Forks that cause you to decide. Is it too tough to follow or can we say like Peter- "where should we go, you have the words of eternal life". When you come to the fork in the road, take it, commit. After all, Jesus promised that would make you happy.

Amen. Let it be so.