

John 14:15-21

I'm currently listening to a series of audiobooks about a female CIA agent. The funny thing about this series is that Mrs. Pollifax, the main character, decided very late in life that she wanted to be an agent and walked into the CIA department to apply. She was mistakenly hired as a courier because of her innocent demeanor. After proving herself worthwhile she is brought in again and again in each new book in which she has adventures as she travels around the world on what is supposed to be a simple assignment. The current book, *Mrs. Pollifax Pursued*, has her in a safe house in the United States. The thing of it is, the safe house happens to be a traveling carnival. One of the first things Mrs. Pollifax is told upon arrival is that when it comes time to enter the carnival she is to say, "I'm in." "I'm in" is the key word to let the ticket taker know she is traveling with the carnival.

"I'm in" in some circles means that "Yes, I agree with your idea. I want to be included." The disciples would have said, "I'm in" to Jesus when they agreed to follow him. They had no idea at the time that there would come a day when Jesus would tell them "On that day you will know that I am in my father and you in me, and I in you." What on earth did he mean by that?

This was the farewell speech from Jesus to his disciples during the last meal they shared together before Jesus was arrested. He was telling them that he would be leaving them soon, however they would not be left alone. Because he was going to his Father, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom they would not be able to physically see, would be sent to them. The indwelling Holy Spirit would come to them once the Son had returned to the Father. Because the Holy Spirit would be with them there would never be a time when they were alone without God because God the Holy Spirit would dwell in them, and therefore dwells in us.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit allows us to further develop a relationship with God. When we are in true relationship with God we no longer want to commit sin but we want to follow the commandments God gave to us through Moses on the mountaintop. And we want to follow the commandments Jesus gave us to love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

There were two children whose parents went out for the evening. While their parents were gone the babysitter allowed them to play with every single game and toy they wanted to play with without putting anything away. Before the kids went to bed that night, they told the babysitter they wanted to put their toys away. She said, "Yep, we did make a mess, we better get it cleaned up so your parents aren't angry with me. They might not ask me to babysit you again." The kids looked at her a bit confused and said, "We want to clean this up because we know our mom will be tired and we don't want her to have to work when she's tired." Even though that sounds a bit farfetched, that is how we are supposed to respond out of love. The kids didn't want to clean up the mess because they'd be in trouble if they didn't, they wanted to clean up the mess because they didn't want to disappoint their parents. The love they feel for their parents causes them to want to behave.

But we know that isn't human nature. Human nature is more like the little girl in the video my friend shared with me. In the video a mom had chosen clothes for her little girl one morning and she was dressed, all except for a pair of blue leggings. Her mother told her to go to her bedroom and bring back the blue leggings. Twice the little girl brought out the wrong pair of leggings. When her mother told her they were again the wrong ones the little girl told her mom she never let her do what she wanted to do. Later the mom was thinking about this in relation

to our obedience to God. God asks us to do one thing and we try everything we want to do and wonder why God seems to be going against us. When we live in harmony with the Holy Spirit we do what is right not because we are afraid of some punishment, but we do what is right because it pleases God.

As Paul said in our second reading when he was addressing the people in Athens, it is in God that we live and move and have our very being. We're in. We're a part of God's community, the kingdom of God. This morning we are baptizing Wade. In their baptismal vows his parents are agreeing to teach Wade how to belong to the kingdom of God. They are promising to bring him up in a way that he knows Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, and we are welcoming him into the family of God. We are acknowledging the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and in Wade's life. It is through the presence of the Spirit that we hear the word of God. It is through the presence of the Holy Spirit that we long to please God not because of what we do for God, but because of what God has done for us through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. God has shown his love for us when he resurrected Jesus from the grave. Because Jesus has conquered death, we too will conquer death. More importantly, we live this life in fellowship with God and with one another because we're in. Because we live and move and have our being in God.

All glory be to God.