



OUR LADY of
GOOD COUNSEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Matt's Musings

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The problem with apples and whales

Most of us grow up with certain images from the Scriptures. In Genesis, we know that Adam and Eve ate fruit from the tree that was forbidden to them. Many of us heard that it was an apple, but the Scriptures simply say - the fruit from the tree. Earlier this week at Mass, we had the story of the prophet Jonah who tried to escape God and was in the sea when a large fish swallowed him and took him to the shore. Once again, many know the story of Jonah and the whale, but the Scriptures only say a large fish. That is the reason for the title of this reflection: The problem with apples and whales.

The problem for me is that at times I and we can come to rash judgments, decisions based on limited information or, like apples and whales because that is the way I heard it. Luke's gospel challenges assumptions like the long-standing division between Jews and Samaritans as he presents a Good Samaritan and a grateful leper Samaritan. Paul persecuted the early Christians but became the Apostle to the Gentiles. Peter denied Christ but led the disciples after Pentecost in the preaching of the Risen Lord. Thomas is referred to as the doubter, but he had the greatest affirmation of faith in the gospels. He encountered the Risen Lord and proclaimed: "My Lord and My God."

Where are the apples and whales in our lives? What are the judgments that need a fresh look; the people whom we need to affirm for the changes that they have made in their lives; the judgments that can enter our minds with only limited information and the courage not to accept comments at face value but evaluate them for their accuracy and validity? Apples are delicious on their own merit as are whales for their own unique beauty, but they should not be confused for anything else.

Live Jesus!

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