

Aug. 30, 2015 "Going 'Nuts' for Christ" based on Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Coed interviewed about religious beliefs: "I believe in God, but I'm not 'nuts' about him."

- 85-90% of Americans believe in God, but a majority don't participate in acts of mercy, charitable giving, or sharing the Word of God
- Jesus summed up the problem of the Pharisees: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Religion a badge of accomplishments, not a gift of grace; way of putting people down rather than lifting them up.
- We're guilty of hiding behind tradition, being caught up in laws and rituals, proper etiquette.
- Pelikan quote: "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living."
- Nominally committed people who use church for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Come on Christmas and Easter. Believe in God, but not 'nuts' about God.

How do we get and keep God in our hearts?

- Need for people who are on fire for Christ, passion and conviction. William Lloyd Garrison, great abolitionist: "I have a need to be on fire for I have mountains of ice around me to melt."
- Need to admit futility of living 'half-heartedly'. Much time spent on unimportant activities, when there are times to become involved in meaningful and fulfilling activities. Mother Teresa told by mother "to go and put your hand in Jesus' hand and walk along with him."

Most of us have a comfortable life in relation to millions in the world today.

- We don't have the inner glow that comes from the kind of life in which Christ is at the center
- We don't quite trust God enough to put our hand, life in God's care
- We try to save ourselves, and God's name is only on our lips

We are invited to share in Christ's body, the Church. Will we receive Christ deep in our hearts so that we might proclaim to the world that we're 'nuts' about God and all God has done for us.