

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Indianapolis**  
**Most Holy Trinity, May 26-27, 2018, Cycle B**

When Jesus first sent his disciples out on a mission in Matthew's gospel (Matt 10:6), Jesus' firm instruction was: "Go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Later on in Matthew's gospel in chapter 15, when we see a gentile woman – a Canaanite – pleading with Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus declares that he was sent "only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," This weekend, Trinity Sunday, the reading from the end of Matthew's gospel, we hear Jesus tell his disciples: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..."

Gradually the Early Church came to realize that God loves and calls all people to share in His Life Divine. Not just the Israelites, but all peoples are invited to come and drink of the Salvation Jesus offers.

With Trinity Sunday, we proclaim that God is a Trinity of persons; meaning that God is a communion of Love. What Jesus came to discover in the course of his ministry is that God's communion of love excludes no one. God always loves, and the reason each human has the breath of life is because God loves – and God wishes to expand his communion of love ever and ever wider. What Jesus came to discover, which is the legacy he left all of His followers, is that with God there is no us and them.

The Apostle Paul came to realize the truth of the inclusiveness of God's love also! At first Paul not only thought that the Jews had an exclusive "in" with God, but actively persecuted Christians. When Paul was knocked to the ground – and found himself helpless and blind, he began a journey that enabled him to proclaim at the end of his Apostolate: that all who are led by the Spirit are "children of God."

The great St. Augustine of Hippo in the 4<sup>th</sup> century liked to speak of the three persons of God as Lover, Beloved and Love. Father = Lover, Son = Beloved, and Holy Spirit = Love. St. Augustine was only reiterating what the author of the First Letter of John wrote before in the first century: God is Love, and he who abides in love abides in God. Apparently, we human beings have a long way to go in discovering the profound truth of what Jesus and the Apostle taught that God's Love is inclusive of all, no one is excluded.