

**Sue Rakoczy IHM**  
**SJTI Homily**  
**17 October 2017**

**Texts:**

Romans 1:16-25—re the Good News and faith

Luke 11:37-41—Pharisees and ritual

**Introduction**

When was the last time you verbally witnessed to your faith? To the Good News?

We may criticise/laugh at Evangelicals and Pentecostals when they do this—  
Why?

Paul today tell us that he “is not ashamed of the Good News”—“the power of God saving all who have faith”.

**1. Faith**

Reliance, a trusting relationship

Many forms of faith: faith that what has happened will happen again, eg the sun will rise

Faith that a friend will be helpful

Faith that I will succeed in my exams

But religious faith is different: trust in what is unseen—that God is faithful

Paul: faith as the way to life

Jesus: offering the fullness of life--in Him

**2. Who do we rely on?**

Mostly we rely on ourselves and other people

Gospel: Pharisees relied on ritual—outward appearances

Jesus castigates them for being outwardly pious but not being generous.

**3. Pharisees and us**

We hear about the Pharisees and think “not me”

But an “inner Pharisee” may be lurking within us

Signs of this

I am better than anyone else

Words and actions do not match—not generous

Known as a pious person in chapel but outside?

Keeping the rule of the house but finding ways around it (many examples)

This is what Paul meant by “philosophers”—not seeking for Truth who is Christ, but seeking for their own way of thinking about God, “giving up divine Truth for a lie”

**5. 500 years since the Reformation**

A chief issue was faith: how do we show it?

Then: indulgences, multiplication of Masses and ritual

Today: faith and works

Works: justice: unity of faith and justice/peace/integrity of creation

## **5. Jesus: “Give alms from what you have”**

As religious, we don't have much personal money but we have many gifts

Time, education, spiritual experience, initiative, energy and creativity

Alms—10% of our time to others

What would that mean practically?

168 hours in a week—10% is 16.8 hours—different ways to serve

Even 5%--8 hours a week—about one hour a day

To make society and the church, the Institute, places where faith is evident and real

## **6. Conclusion**

Today's readings are very challenging.

We may be tempted to walk away just because they are so challenging.

What is the Spirit calling us to in order to transform our “inner Pharisee” to a person of faith in Christ alone?