

## Entrusted

Isaiah 22:19-23  
Psalm 138  
Romans 11:33-36  
Matthew 16:13-20

While doing marriage preparation with a young couple a few years ago, I ask the bride-to-be, “When did you know that Kevin really loved you?” Without hesitating she responded, “When he let me borrow his new pickup truck.” Wow--now *that’s* love! While the three of us enjoyed a good chuckle at her answer, I realized that there was something deeply significant about it. Her answer reminded me that **authentic, loving relationships are the foundation for trust, which then leads to our willingness and ability to entrust important things in our lives to others.**

At the very end of chapter two in the Gospel of John, we are told that Jesus “would not trust himself to [the crowds] because he knew them all...” (John 2:24). The Greek word being used for “trust” in this verse (πιστεύω) means to “entrust.” In other words, Jesus was unwilling to entrust Himself to the care of the crowd because He knew who they were and they did not know who He truly was. Their relationship with Him was still very superficial, and trust cannot be built upon superficial relationships.

In our first reading and Gospel today, we heard about God trusting certain people so deeply that He was willing to *entrust* them with special things. In the first reading, God gave Eliakim a new responsibility because He trusted Him. From the small amount of verses that we have in Scripture about Eliakim, we know a few things—1) he was sent to receive the message of the invading Assyrians and report it to Isaiah (2 Kings 18:18; 19:2; Isa. 36:3; 37:2), 2) he succeeded Shebna in the office as governor of the palace of Hezekiah (Isaiah 22:15-25), and 3) he was a good man who had an honorable career (Isa. 22:20; 2 Kings 18:37). This last thing is the most important. It explains that God and Eliakim had a beautiful relationship which was the foundation for God trusting Eliakim, which led to God entrusting Eliakim with greater responsibility.

A similar thing happened in the Gospel reading today. Whereas the people in chapter two of the Gospel of John did not know Jesus’ true identity, Peter did. After Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ, Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father (Matthew 16:17). Then, we heard how Peter’s relationship with Christ and the Father brought forth a deep trust that led to Jesus entrusting Peter with two important things—the Church and the keys of the kingdom of heaven—

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

-Matthew 16:18-19

Like Eliakim and Peter, you and I are invited to deepen our relationship with God every day. As we do, trust grows and we find God more and more willing to entrust us with things that are important to Him. In a very real way, I believe that God has entrusted all of you to me, and me to all of you, in my new assignment as pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. It is a reflection of our relationship with God and His love for all of us. This week, I invite us to take some time in prayer and reflect on the ways in which our relationship with God deepens His trust in us and how that leads to Him entrusting us with the things that are important to Him.

I want to thank the staff of the church and school for the generous welcome they gave me when I arrived this week. I know that it is hard to welcome a new pastor when you're grieving the loss of the last pastor, which makes their welcome all-the-more meaningful. I also know that change is difficult. While there are going to be a few inevitable changes during this transition, I'm going to keep them as minimal as possible.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. Please know that you will continue to be in my prayers throughout this transition, and please keep me in your prayers. When Saint Peter was entrusted with the keys of the kingdom of heaven he had it easier than I have it at I.C. He received just one key and knew what it unlocked; I've been given countless keys and I still don't know what most of them open! But, the staff did entrust me with the keys to the parish pickup truck!

### **SUGGESTED PRAYER EXERCISE:**

- ✚ Read Psalm 27:1-6. It is a description of humanity's trust in God. In your prayer journal, write your own Psalm of Trust to God, describing the ways in which you *trust* Him and the things that you *entrust to* Him.