

Homily  
Fresno, Calif  
Bonnie Anderson, President, House of Deputies  
Sunday 2/11

Well, we know this Jesus, don't we? We know the Jesus who overturns the tables in the temple, we know the Jesus who turns water into wine, who heals lepers, who talks to unclean women, who fraternizes with tax collectors. We know this Jesus who turns everything upside down and mixes it all around – who tells us that the last will be first and the poor are the owners of God's kingdom, and the people that cry will laugh and if they are hungry, they will laugh with their mouths full. They are blessed.

We know these things about Jesus. We have come to expect these things from him we know he does unusual things on a regular basis. – we know him through our prayer and our worship and through the Bible and through our tradition and through each other. We have come to expect the unexpected from him. We might say that the unexpected is business as usual when it comes to Jesus.

But maybe we are surprised to find Jesus working in our own lives in unexpected ways. Maybe we are so complacent with the “usual way” that Jesus does his unusual things that we don't see the new

truths that he is revealing to us. The Bible commentary written about this passage calls Jesus' teachings in this reading "scandalous" because they overturn every conventional expectation. Maybe we try too hard to put the truth of Jesus into a form that is easy for us to take. Maybe this unusual Jesus that we love so dearly is just being Himself in our lives but we can't see what he is doing because we have our image of him all prescribed. We think we keep him tight in our hearts, safe to do the usually unusual that we have come to know, to expect. Just don't get too unusual on us Jesus.

But the real Jesus, the Jesus that died for us is, the Jesus that gives us glimpses into the hearts of each other, the Jesus that draws us near even when we accuse him of leaving us, the real Jesus is doing things so unusual, so new, so outrageous every day that we have to open our hearts and our eyes and ears, we have to watch carefully for him as he moves among us and in us and we have to really really expect new truths to be revealed to us in unconventional, unexpected ways from unexpected, unconventional sources. Because Jesus is full of surprises. He turns things upside down. Watch out. Expect miracles, for we belong to Jesus and he will surprise us and bless us and

keep us under the shadow of the wings of his angels.