

March 3, 2019

Eighth Week in Ordinary Time



Readings for the week of March 3, 2019

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [11a]/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23 [23b]/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

“A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of the store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.” *Luke 6:45*

From the Fullness of the Heart the Mouth Speaks
Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time – March 3, 2019- Luke 6:39-45

The gospel this week is another attempt by Jesus to call people to holiness through our actions of contrition and reconciliation. It is a commentary on our disposition towards good or evil that will ultimately direct our lives.

Jesus begins by naming the idea of the blind leading the blind. In other words, those who are a bit naïve about their understanding of God and the ways of truth will not be very good at leading others toward the Divine. **“No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained every disciple will be like his teacher.”** So how then do we achieve this training? How do we become more like Jesus?

For many of us (me included) the way to make sure that we are considered “good” is to condemn evil, especially the evil of others. Unfortunately, what happens with this practice is that the condemnation can quickly slide into gossip, judgmental actions, violence and words that lead us further from a state of holiness.

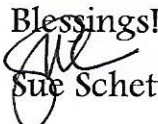
Jesus says the only way to recognize evil is to first recognize it in ourselves. **“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceived the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?”**

The word Jesus uses to describe this situation is hypocrite. This is a tough word to hear. Jesus is describing a skewed action of holiness or piety when we approach others like a judge. We have work to do. We have our own household to straighten out in our relationship with God before we begin to apply it to others. This work is the work of contrition and reconciliation. If we can’t name our sins, seek forgiveness from God and then treat others with mercy, then we are not on the path toward following Christ.

It is in relationship with God that we find our own measure of goodness. It is in knowing God that we can become the good fruit that God calls us to be.

Ultimately, holiness comes from the heart as does evil. The question for us is whether our heart is full of goodness for others or is it full of evil malice for those we think are not worthy of us.

Everyone is worthy of God and God’s holiness. Everyone is in relationship with God whether good or evil. The action plan from Jesus is to take care that we are in right relationship with God. If we are, then the goodness that is God will flow forth from our hearts and out of our mouth to a world in need of mercy, contrition and reconciliation.

Blessings!

Sue Schettler