

Vicar Ian Kinney

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 32:22-30; 2 Tim 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8



1 planet. 8 billion people. 7,000 languages. 4 hemispheres. 7 continents. 195 countries, countless cultures. But there are only 2 Cities on earth: The City of God and City of Man. The City of God -of course the One Holy Catholic, Apostolic Church of which you are a citizen. The City of Man -the world, of which you are not a citizen.

In our Gospel, we see an image of the City of Man and City of God—the original tale of two cities. Jesus speaks to us about **a judge in a certain city**. This judge (and the city he infects) shows the epitome of evil, injustice though he masquerades as one of goodness and justice. The widow shows us an image of those who seek justice, yet foolishly comes to this unjust judge looking for justice. Sure, after a while he begrudgingly gives her what she wants just to get her off his back. But like his city, justice he gives is unrighteous, temporal, and insincere.

In no way does the unrighteous judge represent God. Rather this judge is an *anti-type* to show an opposite image of God; no way is he an image of God, nor is he

representative for the City of God. Rather, in the city of God, we have a just judge. We do not have a judge who neither fears God nor respects man, but a judge who is both God and Man. Certainly those who seek justice from the world may receive something but it will never be sincere and it will not last. But for you, who seeks justice from the City of God, Jesus says such a person will speedily receive true, eternal justice from God.

How? Because of the eternal sacrifice of Christ, the eternally Crucified God. It's that simple. And every place His Word is preached, His Sacraments administered. There, true justice is found. Don't think that just because the world has redefined justice again and again and again and tells you to get on board that there is not an objective justice or that God doesn't have a justice for you.

Do you suppose that God shed his blood so that injustice could prevail?

Do you think justice was won for you by blood so you could live in your sins or share in the sins of the city of man? Of course not!

The fact is that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, took your sins into Himself and crucified them to procure for you an eternal justice. In this place, you receive that very sacrifice and you receive justice against all of your adversaries. Not a perceived justice, not a conjured-up justice, not a passing justice and not just a

justice to get you off His back. Only in Jesus, only through His Church will you ever find true, lasting justice.

Do not be like the woman in our Gospel. Do not seek justice from the City of Man. Do not go to the world and say **Give me justice against my adversary** because the world is the very adversary you need justice against!

Seeking justice from the world is like drinking saltwater. You will never be satisfied. If you look to the world for your life and happiness and well-being, you may be satisfied for the moment, but only the City of God can give lasting joy.

There could not be anything more different than these two cities of the Church and the World.

So I encourage you to examine your life.

Do you find that you prefer the world to the Church?

Does it upset you that our standard of justice doesn't change with every new generation, ever new fad, and every presidential candidate?

Do you find yourself in regular prayer to the who taught you to pray? Or do you plea day and night to the common gods of the city of man?

Make no mistake, secularism, hedonism, modernism, scientism, whatever they call it, the world has its own religion and it is

completely opposed to yours. They have their own priests, their own gods, their own sacraments, and their own churches.

Do you even wish sometimes your church acted more like the world?

If you do, repent.

Because your church and—by extension—your life should not look like the world.

You and worldly things should be like oil and water. That no matter how much time you spend together, you just don't mix.

Everything about your church should sound, smell, taste, and look differently than the world around you. There should be nothing more different than your church and the world.

Everything about your life should look different than the lives of those who belong to the world. Your marriage, your family, your search history, your vocabulary, your sexuality, your virtue. You are among the world but you are not one of them. There should be nothing more different than your life and the lives of those in the world.

So then the question finally comes...

Jesus asks **when the Son of Man returns, will He find the faith on earth?** In

English we miss it but Greek, it's abundantly clear. It is THE Faith, not just some

abstract faith, or your own idea of faith. Will he find THE Faith, THE One Holy Catholic, Apostolic Faith? When He returns, will He find the City of God.

Notice that He doesn't wonder if He will find the city of man. He knows that He will. He knows that there will always be those who deify the demonic and demonize the sacred, who esteem rebellion, promiscuity, violence, and hate all in the name of some false justice.

He knows the City of Man will always be alive and well. Rather, He wants to know if he will find the city of God.

Will He?

Will the Church survive to another generation? Will we pass on the ancient faith or just let our kids choose a religion? Just like we let them choose whether or not to brush their teeth, right?

Will we continue to practice the ancient liturgy or will we steer our churches to look like concerts in the city of man?

Will we bow to idols of our generation—sports, politics, pornography, individuality, whatever they may be—and, by our example, teach our children to do the same?

Will we buy into the world's view of family as we take birth control like tic-tacs and contracept ourselves into empty homes and empty pews because we

have bought into myths about overpopulation or careerism or selfish financial stability? Nonsense! Or will we gratefully receive as many children as God has for us **as a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward?**

Will we mythologize anything in the bible we can't rationalize with our small modern minds?

Will we let each generation, like this judge, redefine what justice is? Or will we stand in the City of Him who is Himself unchanging justice.

Will you continue to play paddycake with the world or by confession of faith and holiness of living will you make it clear that there is no salvation outside the Church?

The City of man will endure. Will the City of God?

The answer is of course yes. God always preserves for Himself a remnant.

Whether it is the single man named Lot in the city of Sodom, or Noah and his family on the ark, or the 700 prophets at the time of Elijah, God always has and always will preserve a remnant.

As He preserved Noah and his family in the Ark, He called you out of the sinful world and tucked you safely in the Ark of His Church.

As he called our Lot from the city of Sodom, He has called you out of the City of Man and put you in the City of God.

And as he preserved those 700 prophets at the time of Elijah, He has called you out of the world and put you in His Church.

He will always preserve a remnant for His city. Don't apologize for your citizenship. Don't apologize for what blood has bought.

One thing is certain. As different as they are, the City of Man and City of God, they both catechize.

However, the City of man is often better at teaching children to be heathen than Christians are at teaching children to be Christian!

Which city are you going to let catechize your child?

Will you care enough to catechize our children in this city or let the city of man catechize them for you? When your child spends 1 hour a week here and the other 167 hours in the world, which city has the upper hand? Because **the time *has come* when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.** Which city are you going to let catechize your child?

The City of God, the kingdom which the sun never sets, while the city of man, dwells in perpetual darkness. So as the City of Man sinks further, further into the

darkness of hedonism and heathenism, the City of God is called to be the Light of the world who shines in holiness and purity to those who dwell in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

Luke says that Jesus told this parable so that we ought always pray and never lose heart.

So pray, and never lose heart.

Let the liturgy be on the forefront of our homes and Churches and never lose heart.

Let your life be one of prayer and holiness and righteousness, so completely different from the world that they hate you for it. And never lose heart.

Always seek to dwell in and pursue the City of God, and never lose heart.

Know that while this judge gives a false justice for his own comfort, the true God gives true and eternal justice for his people. Only in Jesus, only through His Church will you ever find true, lasting justice. That's why you are here. So, come and receive the sacrifice and the payment against all your adversaries. You judge is sitting on his throne. The City of God, the Church—covered in the blood of the Crucified—is the only place true justice can be found. And it's yours.

To Him be all Glory forever and ever. Amen.