

8th Ordinary Sunday
March 3, 2019
“From Blindness to the Vision of Wisdom”

Sir 27:4-7

1 Cor 15:54-58

Lk 6:39-45

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

We all have regrets – We have regrets because we have made mistakes which hurt others or ourselves in some way. When we are young, we, usually, are very sure of ourselves, at least in some areas. Consequently, we do things – or fail to do things – because we don’t have the wisdom of experience. Very few are born with the innate wisdom never to make mistakes. For wisdom comes by recognizing our own mistakes – and by observing the mistakes that others have made.

Hopefully, as we mature, we gain wisdom. However, it’s always tragic when we don’t learn from our mistakes. Because then, we can become set in our ways. This can happen because we are prideful and don’t want to admit we are wrong – or blind to the harm we have done! It can also happen because we are attached to something that is doing us harm or even destroying us!

Fortunately, all the scriptures for today can be a help for us in this regard. They can help us to recognize our own faults mirrored in the lives, the speech, and, particularly, in the actions of others.

In the Old Testament passage we learn that our hidden faults are revealed in our speech. Our true feelings – our biases and prejudices – our hates and misplaced loves – can be revealed by what we say in our conversations. We can learn a great deal about ourselves and others if we listen carefully during an argument or a heated discussion regarding something about which people generally disagree. Furthermore, this passage wisely counsels us never to judge others before we have heard what they have to say.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus warns us about the danger of pride and self-assurance in taking advice or giving counsel to others. We cannot give sound advice if we are blind to those same faults within ourselves. We will be the blind guides whom Jesus condemned so forcefully!

Unfortunately, our blindness is fostered and augmented by the culture and the world around us. “How can something be wrong when so many say that it is smart and pragmatic?” “Why should I worry about something when no one else seems to care?” We can apply this to everything from abortion, to sex outside of marriage – from not helping the homeless, to cheating or defrauding another – from denial about environmental issues, to being selfish for our own financial security – from being politically correct, to spreading lies or half-truths on social media!

Today, St. Paul teaches us that sin always results in the sting of death – because sin always goes against human nature and the natural order of the world. The power of sin to destroy us, comes from the natural law that God has placed in all things. We simply can’t go against God’s law without always suffering severe consequences.

But thanks to God, we have salvation in Jesus Christ. In fact, God sent Jesus so that we could learn from his life and words how to live our own lives on our journey during the time we have here. Moreover, Jesus restored the broken relationship we had with God through the suffering and death he endured out of love! Jesus loved us and the Father so much, that he would die, rather than choose himself or save himself!

Brothers and Sisters, the only way to see ourselves, with all of our shortcomings and sins, is in the light of God’s grace and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. With God’s grace, the Spirit can open us to our blindness, and restore a true and lasting vision to our minds and hearts.

We can look to the Gospel and find a new direction away from our waywardness and encouragement in our struggle to do better. Above all, we can face our sins and regrets with a firm purpose of amendment and begin to change for the future in the here and now. We can know that the Father is always there for us with His divine power as we walk with His Son toward the kingdom!

So, let us pray, that during this coming Lent we overcome our blindness, by doing whatever is necessary to walk in the light of God’s revelation to us!

Amen.

March 3, 2019

Msgr. Russell G. Terra

