

27TH SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B) October 2/3, 2021

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is as old as the origin of human beings, and it is one of the first sacraments instituted by God. The first reading tells us how God created us – male and female. Why so, and what is His purpose? Genesis tells us that of all the creatures created by God, none was a suitable companion for the man, so the woman was created from the man. “God blessed them, saying to them, ‘be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it,’” (Gen.1:28).

Thus, in marriage, a man leaves his parents and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. This explains the unity in marriage. Even though the man was created first in this narrative, the way in which the woman was created shows that they are equal, and they complement each other.

Jesus explains further the sanctity of marriage and how important it is. He teaches that marriage is indissoluble, chaste and monogamous in nature. That was the plan of God, and so human beings cannot change it. The reason was to defend and protect the dignity of man and of woman and to make them happy. This happiness was expressed by the man when he saw the woman for the first time.

The Pharisees and the disciples felt that divorce was acceptable because Moses gave them the permission to write a certificate of divorce to the woman and let her go. But Jesus told them that it was due to their hardness of heart that led Moses to give them that permission. He then referred them to the origin of marriage.

In Paul’s letters to the Corinthians and the Ephesians, he also explains how the husband and wife belong to each other both physically and spiritually, and that marriage is a mystery, (1Cor.7:3-5; Eph.5:22-33). He compares the love and bond between the husband and the wife with the love between Jesus and the Church.

Is a marriage contracted now done according to the purpose for which God instituted it? Do we see marriage as a holy union between a man and a woman, and for procreation? For what reason do people marry today? Why so many divorces and separations? The Pharisees and the scribes thought

that once Moses had given them the permission to divorce the woman it was right and proper.

In the same way today, we think that we can engage in any union and consider it as proper because that is the order of the day, and everybody is going into it. St. Paul told the Corinthians: For me, everything is permissible; maybe, but not everything does good... Foods are for the stomach, and the stomach is for foods; and God will destroy them both. But the body is not for sexual immorality; it is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body, (1Cor.6:12-14).

In our modern world today, is there any sin like fornication or adultery? Is there anything like sexual immorality? Now the importance of almost everything is reduced to the area of entertainment – sex, drugs, alcohol, among others. Thus, most youth of today hardly think about the importance of marriage. Pleasure has taken over true love in marriage.

Is God pleased with your marriage? Is God happy with the relationship you are in now? Is your marriage or relationship helping you to be closer to God or taking you far away from Him? Who are you going to marry, and why?

The second reading tells us that Jesus became man like us and He understands all our difficulties including our sexuality, and He is ready to help us live a holy life. Since God is the originator of marriage we must pray for His direction before and after marriage.

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27TH SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B) October 2/3, 2021

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

Marriage is as old as the origin of human beings, and it is one of the first sacraments instituted by God. The first reading tells us how God created us – male and female. Why so, and what is His purpose? Genesis tells us that of all the creatures created by God, none was a suitable companion for the man, so the woman was created from the man. “God blessed them, saying to them, ‘be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it,’” (Gen.1:28).

Thus, in marriage, a man leaves his parents and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. This explains the unity in marriage. Even though the man was created first in this narrative, the way in which the woman was created shows that they are equal, and they complement each other.

Jesus explains further the sanctity of marriage and how important it is. He teaches that marriage is indissoluble, chaste and monogamous in nature. That was the plan of God, and so human beings cannot change it. The reason was to defend and protect the dignity of man and of woman and to make them happy. This happiness was expressed by the man when he saw the woman for the first time.

The Pharisees and the disciples felt that divorce was acceptable because Moses gave them the permission to write a certificate of divorce to the woman and let her go. But Jesus told them that it was due to their hardness of heart that led Moses to give them that permission. He then referred them to the origin of marriage.

In Paul’s letters to the Corinthians and the Ephesians, he also explains how the husband and wife belong to each other both physically and spiritually, and that marriage is a mystery, (1Cor.7:3-5; Eph.5:22-33). He compares the love and bond between the husband and the wife with the love between Jesus and the Church.

Is a marriage contracted now done according to the purpose for which God instituted it? Do we see marriage as a holy union between a man and a woman, and for procreation? For what reason do people marry today? Why so many divorces and separations? The Pharisees and the scribes thought

that once Moses had given them the permission to divorce the woman it was right and proper.

In the same way today, we think that we can engage in any union and consider it as proper because that is the order of the day, and everybody is going into it. St. Paul told the Corinthians: For me, everything is permissible; maybe, but not everything does good... Foods are for the stomach, and the stomach is for foods; and God will destroy them both. But the body is not for sexual immorality; it is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body, (1Cor.6:12-14).

In our modern world today, is there any sin like fornication or adultery? Is there anything like sexual immorality? Now the importance of almost everything is reduced to the area of entertainment – sex, drugs, alcohol, among others. Thus, most youth of today hardly think about the importance of marriage. Pleasure has taken over true love in marriage.

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