

10th Sunday of the Ordinary Time

The readings for today give the name “sin” to our offenses against God. When we sin, we violate God’s Commandments and we distance ourselves from Him; we need to remember that we are missing God’s pardon and forgiveness, when we refuse or fear to admit our sins.

In describing Adam and Eve’s first sin and disobedience, today’s first reading, explains the beginning of evil in the world with its destructive results. The loving relationship joining man to God is destroyed, and the relationship of mutual love between Adam and Eve is weakened. Their “blame game” allowed each to avoid taking personal responsibility for their joint choice.

In the second reading, Paul declares to the Corinthians that the many sufferings of his missionary work were God’s plan for his spiritual growth; his sufferings, which he offered with Jesus for the Salvation of the world, would result in a glorious reward for him and for all believers who do the same.

Today’s Gospel passage reveals how Jesus himself was misunderstood by His own relatives, and was criticized, slandered, and rejected by the Sanhedrin, scribes, and Pharisees. Jesus’ sufferings give us courage, strength, healing, and forgiveness, so that we can do as Jesus did when we face unfair treatment and criticism in our lives.

Today’s Scriptures challenge us to face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism: Very often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail

to listen to us and refuse to accept the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them because they are too familiar with us. So, they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. But, we have to face such rejection with prophetic courage, because, by our Baptism we are called to be prophets like Jesus, sharing his prophetic mission. As prophets, our task is to speak the truth and oppose the evils in our society without tolerating or encouraging sinful behavior even in our dear ones. Let us also acknowledge, appreciate and encourage the prophets of our time, who stand for truth and justice in our society, with the wisdom of God in their heads, the power of the Holy Spirit in their words and the courage of God in their actions.

We need to have the courage of our convictions: Modern “liberal-minded” people may find genuine Christians’ belief and practice of Christ’s ideas and ideals crazy, too. So, what is needed in a Christian is the courage of his or her convictions based on the authority of Jesus as God, and the truth of his doctrines. Many saints, following Christ's example, have been taken for madmen/madwomen, yes, they were mad with love, for Jesus Christ.

We need to live as members of God’s family: Let us remember that, by Baptism, we become the children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus and members of the Heavenly family of the Triune God. So, let us observe our obligations of treating others with love and respect and of sharing our love with them in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We are also His disciples, so we are expected to be listeners as well as doers of the word of God. So, let

us keep our souls daily cleansed and filled with the Spirit of God, leaving no space for the evil spirit to enter our souls.