

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37

Homily.

Many of us may have the misconception that the Old Testament is of little significance and don't care to study it. Well, Jesus not only did not discard it, but also authenticated it. He takes us from the letters to the spirit of the Old Testament. The New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament points to the New Testament. Hence, to understand the New Testament better, we must study the Old Testament well. Remember, he said that he came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

In today's gospel, Jesus took three Old Testament laws and gave his interpretation of them. They were the laws concerning murder, adultery, and swearing. Thus, Jesus taught the methodology of interpreting the Scriptures. Make it a habit to read the scriptures like Jesus, and with Jesus.

Let us pick up his explanation on the commandment against adultery.

Sexuality is a precious gift from God. The giver of any gift is honored when the gift is appreciated and used as intended. It is meant to be celebrated in the institution of sacred marriage.

Anything outside of it is an insult to God, who gifted us with this precious gift. Using it for entertainment, as a commodity, as a timepass, as a means of marketing, as a means of manipulating people, or as a means of expressing friendship are sins; Jesus does not negotiate on that.

If you are married, your spouse is God's handmade gift for you. God does not want you to randomly exchange his exclusive gift for you with someone else. Hence, he insisted on not divorcing and remarrying at will. When you celebrate your family life as a married couple, you honor God. When you care for, forgive, love, and compromise for your spouse, you are honoring God; they are your acts of worship.

If you are unmarried and hoping to get married in the future, be assured that God is preparing an exclusive gift for you. Prepare yourself to receive that blessing. Keep yourself pure and holy for the person God is preparing for you. Pray for that person that he or she walks in the path of God and comes to you, a holy one, one day.

Parents and elders have the sacred duty to prepare the younger generation to understand the need to remain holy before and after marriage. Someone asking for intimacy before getting married is belittling your dignity. Don't imagine that one who does not respect your dignity before marriage is going to respect it after marriage. Remember, Jesus said, "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away." Sinful relationships are to be treated like cancer.

Those who are single for life, or widows or widowers, let us pray for our families. Families need our prayers so they can grow in love and holiness.

Amen.