

# Sunday February 27, 2022

## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Parishioner Reflection

*By: Gerry Mackrell*

The theme of today's readings seems to be emphasizing the need for discernment as we live our lives in this ever-changing world today. The word of God however never changes, it is Truth, it is Love, it is Redemptive, and it is Timeless. We need guidance from our church leaders of course. But, at the end of the day we will be judged on our performance alone.

Sirach 27. 4-7 Here Sirach writes of the need for testing. Seek truth, by sifting through the words of one who speaks. Test the quality, like the potter performing a ring test on the pottery from the kiln. Or the way we conduct ourselves during the trials and tribulations of life is the test before each one of us. Sirach also asks us to cultivate our minds so that as we speak, our words are influenced by the teachings of God rather than the world.

In the second reading St. Paul talks about the perishable body putting on imperishability, the mortal body puts on immortality. He also states earlier that flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God. It is only the spiritual body within us that can evade death. This mortal/perishable body of man must one day face the sting of death. However, the spirit imbued in man has choices.

The spirit in man is tarnished, (original sin). The Spirit of Jesus not. Never-the-less, on accepting a mortal body, He exposed Himself to temptation. Knowing this, the spirit within us is therefore subject to influences on two fronts. On the one hand, the prince of this world, evil incarnate, Satan himself. And on the other, God the Father, the very one we defied, (original sin.) Infinitely more powerful than Satan, He is our guiding light, He is the straight and narrow road home, His Love and forgiveness is available throughout our entire lives, even to the eleventh hour. The influence of the spirit within man will dictate the action of man. This is why Sirach asks us to cultivate our minds so that as we speak, our words are influenced by the teachings of God rather than the world.

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus told His disciples this parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit. A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like their teacher." He goes on to talk about seeing the speck in another's eye and failing to recognize the log in our own.

The blind leading the blind. I think Jesus is really talking about the unknowing leading the unknowing, will not both fall into the pit of misinformation. Jesus is urging us to seek the truth in His word through the church. Much has been brought and taught through the scriptures of the

Old and the New Testament. Sadly, there has been much misinterpretation. Jesus by saying this. 'A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like their teacher.' He knew that to perpetuate the faith teachers were required. Over the last two thousand years the church has been carrying out the work of Jesus, men and women devoting their lives to bringing truth and reconciliation to the world. We the disciples must listen and learn. Our contribution must be to compliment the work of the teachers.

"Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" Jesus is letting us know that by giving advice we must be qualified to do so. Someone's spiritual life could be negatively affected by unsound counsel. Jesus, by telling us to first remove the log in our own eye is not saying we refrain from attempting to assist in the furthering of another's faith, He just wants us to get it right. Before we can love and serve Him, we must know Him intimately. By letting the Spirit of Jesus guide us the log will fall from our eyes.

Being disciples of Christ means knowing, loving and serving Him, and our neighbours.