

IT'S NOT FAIR! How many times have we heard this from our kids or uttered these words ourselves?

The Jewish community in Judah and Babylon in the time of the prophet Ezekiel certainly felt that way about God, at least until they came to a greater understanding of God's promises to them through Ezekiel's words of judgment and encouragement. Ezekiel speaks for God when he tells the people that it is because of sin, wickedness and lack of virtue that punishment has befallen on them — not that suffering and difficulties have come to them because God is unfair. They learn they are responsible for their own actions: if they do what is right and just, they will live; if they do not, they will die.

This same encouragement comes to us from St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians. In fact, it is based on our human free will and capacity to choose that which is good and right and just. And St. Paul tells us, *“Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others. Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.”*

Have the same attitude of Christ Jesus, who was fully human even as he was fully divine. This is encouraging because it means it is something we *can do*, with Christ's help. We can, through the practice of virtue and with God's grace, choose that which is good and which is life-giving. Even when our human faults and weaknesses cloud our understanding, we can still choose to follow God's command, as the first son in today's Gospel did. We may not know why he initially refused, but we know by his actions that he is the one who had the same attitude as Christ because he did as his father asked. Let us do the same. Trust in God's promises, rely on Christ's help and allow the grace of the Holy Spirit to work in us that in all we may put on the attitude of Christ as we serve the Father and his people.

Fr. Michael



¡NO ES JUSTO! ¿Cuántas veces hemos escuchado esto de nuestros hijos o nosotros mismos lo hemos pronunciado?

En el tiempo del profeta Ezequiel, en Judá y Babilonia la comunidad judía se sentía de esa manera en relación a Dios; por lo menos, hasta que llegaron a entender las promesas de Dios hacia ellos mediante las palabras de Ezequiel, palabras de juicio y ánimo. Ezequiel habla por Dios cuando dice a la gente, que es por el pecado, la malicia y la falta de virtud que el castigo vino sobre ellos – esos sufrimientos y dificultades no vinieron a ellos porque Dios es injusto. Ellos aprendieron que ellos son responsables por sus propias acciones: si ellos hacían lo que es correcto y justo, ellos vivirían; si ellos no lo hacían, ellos morirían.

Ese mismo ánimo viene a nosotros de parte de San Pablo, en su carta a los filipenses. En efecto, es basado en nuestro libre albedrío y la capacidad de elegir lo que es bueno, correcto y justo. Y San Pablo nos dice, *“NO hagan nada por egoísmo o vanagloria; antes bien háganlo por humildad considerando a los demás como superiores, cada uno sin buscar su propio interés o beneficio, sino el del prójimo. Tengan los mismos sentimientos que tuvo Cristo Jesús.”*

Tengan la misma actitud de Cristo Jesús, quien fue completamente humano, como también fue completamente divino. Esto es alentador porque significa que es algo que podemos hacer, con la ayuda de Cristo. Por medio de la práctica de la virtud y con la gracia de Dios, nosotros podemos elegir lo que es bueno y lo que es vivificante. Incluso cuando nuestras fallas humanas y debilidades nublen nuestro entendimiento, todavía podemos escoger seguir los mandamientos de Dios, como lo hizo el primer hijo en el Evangelio de hoy. No sabemos porque el inicialmente se negó, pero sabemos que, por sus acciones, él es, el que tiene la misma actitud como Cristo porque el hizo lo que su padre le pidió. Hagamos lo mismo. Confiemos en las promesas de Dios, dependamos de Cristo mientras servimos al Padre y a su pueblo.

Padre Miguel

~ AREA NEWS ~

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS — Join Lisa Hurlimann for an info and registration meeting on Sunday, **October 1st**, 12:30-1:30pm, in the St. Joseph Rm of St. Mary's Parish Center (downtown Eugene). All young ladies, ages 6-18, are welcome to join this wonderful organization, and work in faith, charity, and service to the community. Light refreshments will be provided. Questions? Call Lisa (206-504-0426, or email her at: lhurlimann31@gmail.com.

SPARK Kick-Offs are THIS Week!



Youth: October 3 (Tuesday) — 7:00pm @ St. Mark

Kids: October 5 (Thursday) — 6:30pm @ St. Peter

THIS IS RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY!

At those times when we doubt the value
of our life, or the lives of others, born & unborn,
let us remember that ALL of us
are infinitely loved by God, our maker, no matter what our 'station' in life!



ROSARY BOWL NW

October 7th (Saturday) **9:00am—4:00pm** (doors open 8:30am)

Oregon State Fairground's Pavilion (Salem) (<http://rosarybowlnw.webs.com/>)

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WHY ARE CATHOLICS REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS?

The people of ancient Judah were conquered by the powerful Babylonian Empire, and nearly all of them were exiled from their land. The city of Jerusalem and the great temple within its gates were ruined. No longer able to worship there as their ancestors had done, the Jews were forced to live in a faraway pagan culture that knew nothing of their God.

It was many, many years later when the surviving exiles and their children were allowed to return to their homeland. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah report what happened upon their arrival in Judah. Not surprisingly, those who were serious about their faith made it their priority to rebuild the temple so they could worship there again. They wept and shouted with joy at its restoration. Having been deprived for so long of the freedom to worship God as he had instructed them, they learned to treasure their sacred assemblies in the house of the Lord (Ezr 3:1-13).

These ancient events help illustrate why the Catholic Church requires attendance at Mass on Sundays and annual Holy Days. Worship is a primary duty owed to God by his creatures, who receive from Him not only their very existence, but every other good gift as well. Worship is also a privilege, a precious opportunity to encounter the great King of the universe who loves his people beyond all telling.

The ancient Jews who recognized this awesome duty and privilege, made every effort to come to the temple to offer their sacrifices of grain and animals. How much more, then, should Catholics be eager to attend Mass, where the glorious sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Himself, is offered on the altar (Heb 9:13-14).

In the time of Moses, God had commanded his people to keep holy the Sabbath day by setting it apart for worship and rest (Ex 20:8-11). The Church now applies this "Sabbath principle" to Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Just as under the Old Covenant God required proper observance of the Sabbath, the Church requires proper observance of Sunday and the appointed Holy Days. It is the first among the formal "precepts" (rules) of the Church.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible • Dt 5:12-15 • 2 Chr 36:21 • Ps 27:4; 69:10; 84:1-13; 122:1-9 • Mt 1:21; 2:27-28 • Jn 20:19 • Acts 2:42-46 • 1 Cor 11:17 • Heb 10:1-25
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