

7th Sunday in the Ordinary Time C
February 24, 2019

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES...

THE READINGS

FIRST READING (1 Sam 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23)

²Saul went off down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph.

⁷So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. ⁸Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" ⁹But David said to Abishai, "**Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD'S anointed and remain unpunished?**

¹²So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber.

¹³Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops.

²²But David answered: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. ²³The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, **I would not harm the LORD'S anointed.**

FOCUS: God's Anointed

COMMENTARY

- Background: King Saul was seeking the life of David. David was running away from him.
- In v.7, David and Abishai come close to their enemy (Saul, Abner his general and soldiers)
- In v.8, Abishai wants to take advantage of the situation: to kill Saul.
- V.9 portrays David's magnanimity to his foe. David shows his belief that Saul is still the Lord's anointed even if he is mistaken.
- V.12 portrays David just taking away Saul's spear and water jug (needed in combat)
- V.13 portrays David going to a safe distance.
- In v.22-23, David makes himself felt to Saul and his soldiers.
 - David makes them realize they were in a dangerous situation during the night. They would have been killed without any difficulty on the part of David.
 - These last 2 verses articulate the magnanimity of David.
 - David has no intention of harming Saul as the latter suspects.

REFLECTIONS

This is a big time story how a big time king himself seeks the life of his servant David (musician, soldier, soon to be big time leader) because of jealousy.

Jealousy can lead to violence, killing and assassination (but this is not the main point of the story).

In the story, David exhibits his good will to his former boss, King Saul, who is psychologically sick (paranoid, insecure) and has ill will towards David.

Imagine how crazy Saul is, wasting his time seeking David for no reason at all. What a way to waste resources and time!

Here in the text, David is presented as a good man in spite of the hostile feelings of the most powerful man in Israel.

David treats him humanely. He does not take advantage of his weakness (*pagka buang*) and defenselessness in the night. *Ayaw pumatol*.

David's reasoning comes from his fear of the Lord and recognition that he is still the Lord's anointed. 2x said.

He fears of *gaba* (karma).

Well enough, his approach works as history shows.

You do not have to kill your enemy / opponent (your relative, your boss) in order to survive or get to the top.

To be a warrior, to be a soldier does not always mean to kill the enemy.

This is magnanimity.

To lead well, one must fear the Lord.

SECOND READING (1 Cor 15,45-49)

⁴⁵So, too, it is written, "The **first man, Adam**, became a living being," the **last Adam a life-giving spirit**. ⁴⁶But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, **earthly**; the second man, **from heaven**. ⁴⁸As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. ⁴⁹**Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.**

FOCUS: Adam-Christ

COMMENTARY

ADAM

- ⁴⁵ "The first man, Adam,
- became a living being,"
- ⁴⁷ from the earth, earthly;
- ⁴⁸ earthly one, so also are the earthly,
- ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,

CHRIST

- ⁴⁵ the last Adam
- a life-giving spirit.
- ⁴⁷ from heaven.

- ⁴⁸ heavenly one, so also are the heavenly.
- ⁴⁹ we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.
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REFLECTIONS

St. Paul here does not paint a bad picture of our humanity.

The first man, Adam, comes from God. He was once earth and he became a living being through God's intervention (cf. Gen 2)

Adam owes his life from God.

We descend from Adam, the first man.

Christ, the last Adam, comes from heaven (*has element of the divine*)

He is life-giving himself, unlike the human.

We humans are by-products of nature and the divine.

The mystery of our humanity consists in being human and divine. We have elements coming from the material and spiritual (God) realities.

GOSPEL READING (Lc 6: 27-38)

What to do with your enemies

²⁷"But to you who hear I say, **love your enemies**, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

What to do with the violent

²⁹To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well,

What to do with the needy (the borrower)

and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.

³⁰Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

Golden Rule

³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Challenge to do more

³²For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.

³⁵But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back;

The reward

then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

On Judging

³⁶Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

The rewards on giving

³⁸Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

FOCUS: Love Your Enemies

COMMENTARY/REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL READING

- There is not much to say about the reading because it is easy to understand.
- In the reading, we are given a lot of imperatives (do's and don'ts).
- Christian life is extending your hand to the other (lend, don't take it back). Something must come out of you.
- It discourages selfishness.
- It discourages vengeance (turn the other cheek) and hostility.
- Christianity discourages minimalism (we should do more than the gentiles, criminals, etc.)
- Christians should not be judgmental.
- Christians should be charitable, if they want to have / receive more.
- There is a great reward to Christians who heed God's imperatives.

II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER

The First Reading demonstrates love for one's enemies (David to Saul).

The Second Reading demonstrates his love of Christ and of our humanity. *Our humanity is not our own enemy.*

The Gospel Reading clearly commands all Christian believers to love their enemies.

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR HOMILY/SHARING

Begin by telling a story of your enemy, what he/she has done or is doing to you. What is your natural reaction?

Who is your enemy? (Somebody who does harm.)

How should we treat our enemies? What do the readings teach about dealing with enemies?

David did not kill Saul even if he had the chance to do so. He respected him because he believed he is still the anointed of God (1st reading).

Paul did not show objections to Adam (though we know he fell into sin) and to our humanity, because he saw it redeemed through Christ (2nd reading)

There is avalanche of imperatives, one after the other, how to deal with people who make our lives miserable, who inconvenience us, who want to get our hard earned resources, who do not give us a break.

The imperatives try to make us different from the rest of mankind who may be vengeful, war freak, unforgiving.

It is a lot more beneficial if we follow God's commands regarding our "enemies."

Our "enemy" may be our makulit na pamangkin or relative or friend. He/she may be our employer or employee (*does not forward to us our messages / letters*). It may be our "katulong" who does not know the value of our properties, who just put them into the garbage can.

It may be our business competitor; political opponent.

It can be the “tsismosang” manang (church worker) who talks against the priest or anyone.

We are now living in these modern times. Gone should be the primitive ways in dealing with our enemies.

Today there are many experts who can teach us how to manage conflicts, how to deal with a person with problems, etc. We must avail of their services as part of on-going formation.

In the eucharist, Jesus has shown how much he loves us all including his enemies. At the cross, he said “Forgive them for they know not what they do.” Jesus is here to give us life and strength to make peace with everyone, so that we will not be slaughtering one another.

OUR CONTEXT

1\$= P52.52 (as of February 17, 2019)

The campaign period begins; time to assay the candidates
BARRM already approved, in a Transition Government