

Homily- 26th Sunday of Year A. September 27th, 2020.

Theme: A Call to Repentance and Steadfastness.

The readings of last Sunday reminded us of the interest and love God has for the salvation of all. In the readings of today, we are being invited to reflect on the fact that without repentance-change of heart and steadfastness we cannot win this salvation. The Prophet Ezekiel, in our first reading, prophesied of the pains and complaints of his people because of all the woes that have befallen them because of the sins committed by their fathers. Ezekiel's great theological contribution in this chapter is his emphasis on personal responsibility. Removing a false understanding of Exodus (34:7), he teaches that each one is liable for his/her own sin. If a wicked repents, he will be saved. If a just person is not steadfast and does not persevere, he/she would not be saved.

Jesus using his usual parabolic method teaches the chief priests and elders of the people, through the story of a man who had two sons and asked them to go and work in his vineyard. The first son said no later changed his mind. The second was quick to accept, but did not fulfill his promise. His yes was not deep but only lip service. (Is.29:13, Mtt.15:8, Ps 78:36). The first son may be categorized as an unrighteous that repented and was praised while the second son may be seen as the righteous who could not be steadfast in his promise. We in one way or the other belong to the group of either of the sons.

We called to examine our lives and be able to know those places we need to be steadfast and repent. We must guide ourselves against two weapons of vice; the vice of over-confidence and the vice of despair. We need the virtue of humility which St. Paul's through the example of Christ in the second reading invites us to imitate. It is only the virtue of humility will help us to know where we are spiritually, that is, being mindful of our weaknesses and our strengths. Let the good Lord help us that our yes to do God's will, is always heart-felt and reflect always in our lives. Amen.

Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one (Matthew 5:37)