

The Choice We Make: For or Against God's will?

The free will, given to us by God, gives us the freedom to make choices in our everyday life. However, as Christians, we are invited always to make choices according to God's will. The readings of today invite us to reflect on this invitation to choose for God and not against God. The episode in the first reading is a crucial event in the religious history of Israel: The great assembly at Shechem, which happened a few years after the arrival of Israelites into the Promised Land. On entering the Promised Land, the people of Israel found other people living near them who had their gods. Being afraid of the influence, Joshua demands a clear choice and sets an example with himself and the family. The Israelites gave unanimous consent.

The same choice we see in the second reading centering on the relationship between husband and wife. Husband and wife freely choose themselves. To sustain this choice, they have to build and renew their relationship with love, tolerance, forgiveness, patience, and understanding. Further, the Gospel through the examples of Peter invites us to choose for God always. Jesus' disciples had to choose either for him or against him after hearing his teaching on the Eucharist. They saw the teaching as being controversial and started leaving him. Peter made a choice for Jesus and professed "Lord to whom shall we go, you have the message of eternal life."

It is our choice to choose either to believe or reject the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Our choice to believe will certainly influence our dispositions towards it. It is not only Eucharist; but every moment of life is a moment to make choices either for God or against him. Our gathering here is already a choice that we believe in him. The choice we make for God is a choice to make a sincere effort to imitate him. It is a choice to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to be patient, understanding, and tolerance, as he is. Let us pray that the choices we make in our lives will align always with the will of God. Amen.