

March 4, 2017

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading IS 58:9B-14

Gospel LK 5:27-32

In the first reading we are challenged to give of ourselves completely to others not only in word but in action. We are also reminded that in giving of ourselves we are expected to give everything to God as we are reminded to keep holy the Sabbath day. We are told if we give of ourselves to God, He will continue to renew our strength.

At the end of a long day we are reminded of what it means to give of ourselves no matter our profession. We are challenged by Christ to be exhausted at the end of the day. He doesn't challenge us to be exhausted because we work in construction or because we had lots of laundry. He wants us to be exhausted because in any given profession our main objective is to be a servant to and for Him.

In today's Gospel, Jesus told Levi, a tax collector, to follow him. Levi, without hesitation, left everything behind and followed him. In the reading people were angry at Jesus for eating with sinners. In the form of a parable, Jesus reminded them that doctors heal the sick, likewise he was here to save those who needed him most.

This Gospel reminds us of the cliché "God helps those who help themselves." Actually this is Jesus saying, "I come to help those who can't help themselves. I come to save those who need saving, not those who are already saved." Too often we presume that individuals "need more God in their life." The truth is we all do and it is our responsibility to bring Jesus to others, especially those in greatest need. Those who already have found Christ have been saved. It is time to save those who may not be saved as Jesus modeled for us with Levi.

Questions:

How can I exhaust myself for Christ today? In what ways do I regularly give of myself for others? How can I do this more during the Lenten season?

How can I share the good news with someone who needs it most during this Lenten season? Is there a way that I can use my words, thoughts and actions to save somebody today?

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