

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Cycle C

March 31, 2019

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning! How are you? (blessed) Blessed indeed! Don't we just love the Gospel today when it is a Gospel filled with the mercy of God, for all of them. And as we do that, we put into context of this, the Second Reading. In the Second Reading says, "I implore you, be reconciled with God." And so, we have got to look at the three different characters today in the parable. We got to look at the Father, we got to look at the son who went away, and we got to look at the son who stayed. Everyone has something to tell us when we reflect on it. And it all has to do with about being reconciled with God. That God, in last line of the Second Reading says, "God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin, that we might be the very righteousness of God.

That it's God's desire that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of Truth and He does, to fulfill that, He sends Jesus to die. Now again all of us got to come to that. Like when I was doing my mission this past week, I scared everybody there as I was talking on the passion and I said, "Every one of you deserve eternal damnation do you get that?" And they all looked at me like, huh? I said, "I do too! Just so you know I'm not separating myself. Everybody here deserves to be damned forever. I don't care if you go to daily mass. I don't care if you say your ten rosaries. I don't care if you think you are really holy. You deserve damnation. Are there any questions? Until you get that in your heart, you will never appreciate what Jesus Christ did for you. He died with your sins and my sins on Him for us to be reconciled.

And so the first thing we look at is this father, the father who loves us so much. The father who even though the one son stopped being a son, the father never stopped being a father. When you and I are in our sin, whether were the first one who goes around and wants to do it our way, or whether we are the second one that wants to think that we're righteous and look at everything we've done for God and to the hell with everybody else. He wants all of us home. We are all His children. And no matter which side you happen to fall on, you got to know that He sent Jesus to reconcile you with Him. But you'll be reconciled because of Him.

So, the first thing we got to know is those of us who are in the first camp, the ones that have went away and done our own thing. The ones who sit there and say okay I'm going to go and we have sinned and some of us have sinned horribly, that the father, of course in the Jewish law, when the son left he cut himself off from his dad and he said, "My father is dead to me." and the father is in those days would say, literally, that now the son is dead to me. He is dead to me. But this is not what this good father did. Though the son was going out spending his money on prostitutes, doing all of these evil things, the father went and looked for him every day wanting him home.

If that's where you're at, the Father is looking for you every day wanting you home. The only thing He wants for you is to turn around and come back to Him. And we do that mostly in confession. But, you also get the mercy and the grace of that as soon as you say, "Father, I am sorry." Then He is just welcoming you. He wants you.

Then we have the second one. And a lot of us fall into this. I fall into this one myself. The second Son who's doing all the stuff for God, doing everything. And then we kind of get mad at the other ones who get to come in, like at the end. Like after everything I've done and then this guy gets what he wants to do it's not right it's just not right. Have you ever felt that way? Yeah, it is just not right. And that's what happens. But then but God wants us to be reconciled too because you do realize He tells the parable for the second son today, right? Because they were yelling at him because Jesus sat there and ate and drank with sinners and it was offensive to the really, holy people. It was offensive to them. And often that is us. You know that is why people hate Pope Francis because he talks about that we have to reach out to sinners. And the righteous one sits back, and they do all of these things.

You know the reason that I have been in trouble for the last month, let me be very clear about this, because I support Pope Francis. And the organizations, which I will never say any other names never again publicly, ever, let it be clear, never again will I give them any public recognition, but I went against them publicly because they went against the Pope. And their people have gone after me, and it's just been getting worse it hasn't been getting better. But let me just tell you, I want to share something with you. Those of you, because someone you need reconciled, some on you wrote letters to the Bishop about me. And the Bishop called me and told me your names, I know who you are.

But the reality is you endanger your eternal salvation. So God wants to be reconciled with you and you got to know and you need to repent just much as the other ones. And this is what Vatican council one says, the fourth session. And this is chapter 3 and we're going to go to number one. It says, "To him, blessed Peter, full power has been given by Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to tend, to rule and govern the Universal Church, one. The second part of this we go down to four. "This is the teaching of the Catholic truth. Now hear this, and no one can depart from it without endangering his faith and salvation." So that means if you go against the Pope publicly, you endanger your faith and your salvation.

So, I as the pastor, must tell you your soul is endanger of eternal damnation if you go against the Holy Father of the Church. This is the Vatican teaching, first Vatican council, infallible teaching of the Church. So, if you're on that second son, oh it goes on. I am going to read just one more part. This is number eight of the third chapter. Since the Roman Pontiff, by the Divine reign of Apostolic Primacy governs the whole Church. We likewise teach and declare that he is the supreme judge of the faithful. And that is all cases which fall under ecclesiastical jurisdiction, recourse may be made only to his judgement. The sentence of the Apostolic See, that which there is no higher authority is not subject to revision by anyone. Nor may anyone lawfully pass judgment there upon him.

So he talks about no one is to judge the first see you must believe if you are Catholic. If you do not believe that you are called a protestant, because you protest against the supreme authority of the Church. So I call out those of you who, the people that sit there and say, "Who is he to welcome sinners?" And I'm telling you, you, need and I need to be reconciled with the Father just as much as the other ones. That all of us need to be reconciled. None of us have any room in our life to pass judgment on anybody, especially the Pope of the Church. And he, though everybody comes against him now a days, still calls us home. Stills says, "Keep complaining about me, but I will still love you. I will still care for you," because we are his flock.

So we got all the lines very clear, why I'm in trouble, why I'm not in trouble, why I have publicly said things, why some of you said I have not answered that. If you remember I did answer when I came back from Australia. I sent a letter, I sent a link to every one of you, you remember on Parish App? I did my interview down in about why I went against these things? I was very explicit. I answered every one of you, for a couple of you that wrote me a letter.

What I'm trying to get across this day is that every one of us needs to be reconciled. We need to be reconciled with God. We need to be reconciled with each other. We need to be reconciled with the Church. God is calling us to a community of love and the devil is dividing us. And if the devil divides us, he can pick us off one at a time. But together we can do anything. Together we can really raise up. And God came and sent Jesus to die for all of us than together, as His family, we would do His will and be the light that He calls us to be. So, be reconciled with God, all of us. Got it? Get it? Going to do it? May each of you know His love today and forever amen.