

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sirach 35:12-14,16-18
 Ps 34:2-3,17-19,23
 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18
 Luke 18:9-14

Monday October 24

Ephesians 4:32 5:8
 Ps 1:1-4,6
 Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday October 25

Ephesians 5:21-33
 Ps 128:1-5
 Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday October 26

Ephesians 6:1-9
 Ps 145:10-14
 Luke 13:22-30

Thursday October 27

Ephesians 6:10-20
 Ps 144:1b,2,9-10
 Luke 13:31-35

Friday October 28 Sts. Simon and Jude

Ephesians 2:19-22
 Ps 19:2-3,4-5
 Luke 6:12-16

Saturday October 29

Philippians 1:18b-26
 Ps 42:2,3,5cdef
 Luke 14:1,7-11

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, we see that "whoever exalts himself will be humbled." Sooner or later, self-exalting people get humbled, whether they realize it or not. They are brought down low by their own behaviors. People who encounter them in daily life do not think very highly of them. And certainly, God doesn't either.

The much better alternative is to let our love for others be what humbles us.

Without love as our motivation, we believe in our own so-called "righteousness," thinking we're okay when we're not. But when we do good deeds for others because we genuinely care about them, the pride of our self-righteousness is replaced by holy humility.

We are made righteous by our love for others. Self-righteousness is self-made – it motivates us to do good, but only for the selfish purpose of looking admirable, winning approval, or gaining some other personal benefit. Love, which is true righteousness, motivates us to do good for the sake of others.

Look at the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. We all behave like that from time to time. Think of someone who is inferior to you because you are holier, who doesn't go to church as often as you do, or who doesn't pray like you do. Think of someone who is not worthy of your time



and caregiving. Think of someone who is too difficult to love.

The cure for this kind of self-righteousness is to get in touch with God's concern for them. Once we unite our

hearts to God's love for them, we begin to care about them, too. And the most powerful, most successful way to accomplish such union with God is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which absolves us of self-righteousness and empowers us with divine grace to absorb Christ's own righteousness.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Think of those who are less spiritually active than you, who cause you to think: "Thank God I am not like them!" Do you grieve for them because of their sins and blindness? Do you do anything to help them grow closer to Christ? Do they experience Jesus when they encounter you?
2. What are some ways that you show love to those who are not as holy as you, or not as emotionally healthy as you, or not as intelligent as you?
3. Describe a time when you were more self-righteous than righteous. How did you (or how will you) let Jesus turn your pride into love-filled humility?