



8th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR C – March 3, 2019***

Father Mark Link, in one of his homilies, referred to an article that appeared in a national magazine. It was an article about lucky people.

It began by pointing out that some people seem to get all the breaks, while others seem to get none. It then went on to make a surprising statement. It said that lucky people are often the cause of their own good luck, while unlucky people are often the cause of their own bad luck. The statement was backed up by a series of examples.

Finally, the article addressed the big question that was on everybody's mind. How do lucky people cause their breaks? What do they do to make themselves candidates for good luck? And how do unlucky people often cause their bad breaks? What do they do to make themselves candidates for bad luck?

The answer that the author of the article gave made a lot of sense. It said that lucky people, by and large are people who have an upbeat attitude. They are people who are positive and affirming. Above all, they are people who have a knack for focusing on the good side of things, especially the good side of other people.

In contrast, unlucky people often have a downbeat attitude. They are people who are negative and hostile. Above all, they are people who have the habit of focusing on the bad side of everything, especially the bad side of people. They are people who are prone to criticism and find fault with everything. They are the kind of people Jesus talks about in today's Gospel (Luke 6:39-45) when he says, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye but do not see the wooden beam in your own. You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first. Then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye."

Some spiritual writers describe that "wooden beam" as one or more of the capital sins. You remember them from your childhood studies. They are sinful pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and laziness. They are called capital sins because it is from them that all other sins ultimately come.

With the grace of God all those "wooden beams" can be removed from our eyes. It is then and only then that we can help our brothers and sisters deal with their "splinters".

Are you a person who focuses on the good side of things, especially the good side of other people, or does that biblical "beam" prevent you from seeing the good in others? Remove that "beam" and you will indeed be a lucky person. And you will have created your own luck like those people in the magazine article cited above.

God has created us to be happy here on earth. The truth is, we can only be as happy as we allow ourselves to be. The choice is ours.

Choose Happiness!

