

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 9/8/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

SIR 27:30—28:7

PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion)

ROM 14:7-9

MT 18:21-35

GOSPEL:

- Peter asks how often he must forgive someone who sins against him.
 - Seven vs. seventy times seven times. What is Jesus getting at here?
- Jesus tells a parable. The king is going to exercise WHAT IS HIS RIGHT due to the offense. Yet due to pleading not just postpones the punishment, not just gives more time to pay (which it is his right in justice to expect) - he writes off the whole debit!
- He then is put on the other side of the same situation and does not follow the king's example.
- For this the king reverses his decision, and treats the servant the way he himself acted.
 - Why would the servant do such a thing? Does the king act rightly? What would you do?
- Jesus says that the Father will act in the same manner unless we forgive each other FROM THE HEART. The Father (the great King) has already acted as the king in the story in forgiving - how will we respond to that gift of forgiveness?
- In another place in this Gospel Jesus will say "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you" (Mt 7:2)

FIRST READING:

- The sinner holds on the wrath and anger. If one does not let go of wrath and anger neither will God towards them for the Lord "remembers their sins in detail." Our acts of holding on to others sins will be mirrored by the Lord. Does this seem strange?
- If you forgive, you will be forgiven. How can we expect forgiveness when we will not forgive? How can we expect mercy when we don't show it? It does not seem fair or Just.
 - God sets a standard in Divine Law - forgiving makes you eligible for forgiveness.
- He points to death; "your last days". How can you cherish hatred within yourself and be united to Jesus? How can the unloving enter into union with the God who is love?
- "Hate not your neighbor, and overlook faults" - WOW, that's not easy!

SECOND READING:

- We tend to think that we are the ultimate deciders of what is right, that we are the judge.
- St. Paul reminds us that we are the Lord's - we must follow as he directs us.
- That also means that the person we are upset with is also the Lord's - how can we despise what the Lord loves and still claim to be with God?
- He wants us to all be united in love so that we can all share in his glory one day.

—Closing Prayer