

Small Group Guide  
February 16, 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) How many decisions do you think you make in a day?
- 2) What is the best choice you've ever made in your life? Why was it the best?
- 3) The first reading from Sirach (see next page) talks about free will (i.e., our ability to choose good or evil). It says *"Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him."*
  - a. What do life and death refer to in that line?
  - b. Practically speaking, what does it mean to choose life or death? What would be a real-life example of choosing life? Choosing death?
  - c. Do ever feel that your freedom in making choices is limited? If so, what limits your freedom?
  - d. Why would God give us the choice to choose evil?
- 4) In the Gospel, Jesus is teaching on the commandments as part of the Sermon on the Mount. Instead of simply condemning/forbidding murder and adultery, he says *"But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment"* and *"everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart"*
  - a. Why is anger such a problem? Why is lust such a problem?
  - b. When does anger go from being an "emotion" to a "sin?"
  - c. Have you ever been so angry with someone that you would describe that anger as sinful? Were you able to move past the anger? How?
  - d. What steps can you take to avoid "lusting in your heart"
- 5) How do you involve Jesus/God in the *major* decisions in your life?
- 6) How do you involve Jesus/God in the *minor* decisions in your life? Is this necessary? Is it helpful?

**First Reading:** Sirach 15:15-20  
**Second Reading:** First Corinthians 2: 6-10  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 17-37

**Reading 1** [SIR 15:15-20](#)

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you;  
if you trust in God, you too shall live;  
he has set before you fire and water  
to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.  
Before man are life and death, good and evil,  
whichever he chooses shall be given him.  
Immense is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is mighty in power, and all-seeing.  
The eyes of God are on those who fear him;  
he understands man's every deed.  
No one does he command to act unjustly,  
to none does he give license to sin.

**Gospel** [MT 5:17-37 OR 5:20-22A, 27-28, 33-34A, 37](#)

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Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses  
that of the scribes and Pharisees,  
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors,  
*You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.*  
But I say to you,  
whoever is angry with brother  
will be liable to judgment.

"You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery.  
But I say to you,  
everyone who looks at a woman with lust  
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,  
*Do not take a false oath,*  
*but make good to the Lord all that you vow.*  
But I say to you, do not swear at all.  
Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'  
Anything more is from the evil one."