

Homily  
29<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Ordinary Time I 2001  
Romans 6:12-18 & Luke 12:39-48

Paul's letter tells us that a person is a slave of the one he obeys either of sin or of obedience. One can't serve two masters. I have served the master of sin. I'm not just talking of the vices, but in others ways also...that we do it our way, not God's way... where we act in self-interest in opposition to God's interest.

The good news is that we can heal from sin recognized, accepted, repented, and forgiven.

What often compounds this sin and obstructs our healing, is when we serve our own interest and play it off, rationalize it as if we were acting in service to another. It's when we try to serve both masters at once, that evil and sin make their deepest roots in us.

Our gospel account follows the parable where servants are ready and waiting for their master's return from a wedding. Blessings were showered on those vigilant servants.

Peter...ever being Peter... does not quite get it and asks if that applies to them (the chosen) or to whom.

Jesus continues the parable focusing on the steward of the house, the one in charge of the servants and the one responsible for providing for their needs. Abuse of that stewardship results in punishment and beatings (gulp!)

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much. Still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”

If this sounds demanding and stark, remember that this parable started with blessings and joy for those vigilant in the Lord.