

7<sup>th</sup> Friday II 2006

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

[James 5:9-12](#)

Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,  
that you may not be judged.  
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.  
Take as an example of hardship and patience,  
brothers and sisters,  
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.  
Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered.  
You have heard of the perseverance of Job,  
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,  
because the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

But above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear,  
either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath,  
but let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No"  
mean "No,"  
that you may not incur condemnation.

[Mark 10:1-12](#)

Jesus came into the district of Judea and across the Jordan.  
Again crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom,  
he again taught them.  
The Pharisees approached him and asked,  
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"  
They were testing him.  
He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?"  
They replied,  
"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce  
and dismiss her."  
But Jesus told them,  
"Because of the hardness of your hearts  
he wrote you this commandment.  
But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.  
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.  
So they are no longer two but one flesh.  
Therefore what God has joined together,  
no human being must separate."  
In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.  
He said to them,  
"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another  
commits adultery against her;  
and if she divorces her husband and marries

another,  
she commits adultery."

James is offering us a couple of lessons.  
The first is about patience in the face of oppression. The second is how we credibly express ourselves as Christians. Are there people to whom you have come to respect, who say what they mean and mean what they say? There are those- and sometimes me- who try to sell their veracity by persuasiveness and posturing. To whom do you go when you want the information straight? Am I someone to whom one can go...are you? And how do I know if I have it straight to share? Somehow, we have pretty good clues: is it rooted in God's unconditional love or is there some intended and desired response from the other?

Jesus is echoed by James here, not talking so much about behavioral do's and don'ts: "Don't fib, tell the truth." He is talking about relationships that are built on something real, not fabricated.

Mark continues on about relationships, the marriage relationship in particular. In this Gospel, Jesus is saying that the marriage relationship is more than just an agreed upon human association. He speaks metaphysically and explains the superceding meaning, that the relationship of man and woman established at creation is that of two incomplete creatures becoming one.

Our relationships with others and spousal relationships all point to our ultimate call ...our relationship with the One who created us to be one with Him.

To our creator, our yes is to be yes...the same yes that Mary gave at the Annunciation, the same yes that Jesus gave at the Garden of Gethsemane.

We incomplete creatures are called to be one with the divine. We physically walk towards that call

when we receive communion. From that union,  
there is no separation, no divorce.

Will you say yes to God?  
Let every Amen we speak be that yes.