

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 23, 2022

- *Excerpt from the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist
October 25, 1998*

Today's readings from the Book of Sirach and from Saint Luke's Gospel got the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the sinner. In God's eyes all flesh is grass that blooms, dries out, and quickly drifts away. God beholds the soul of each one.

The Gospel speaks of the Pharisees. Yet the Pharisees get a bad rap. They were, originally, men who loved God. In the face of a pagan environment, they decided to obey the law of God. They won respect of all people, Jews and pagans alike.

By the time of Jesus however, the Pharisees had become "proud of their humility." Jesus went to war with them and soon "pharisee" and "Hypocrite" became synonymous. But the pharisees were not all bad. Nicodemus and Gamaliel are praised in the New Testament. The Pharisees even laughed at themselves. Here is a list of types of Pharisees. It comes from the Talmud. There are seven categories. Six are ridiculous. Only one is truly Godly.

1. The strong-shouldered who carry their deeds on their backs to receive honor from the men.

2. The stumblers, who, in order to be noticed, drag themselves through the streets and stub their toes on rocks.
3. The head-knockers, who avert their eyes that they may not see women, and knock their heads against walls.
4. The humiliated who walk doubled over
5. The Pharisees of calculation who only obey the law so they may reap the rewards it promises
6. The Pharisees of fear who only do good out of fear of punishment.
7. The Pharisees of devotion who are best of the lot.

So dear friends, we too must be like the good Pharisees who practice out faith out of love for God. And know, that even if you are a sinner, God hears your prayers. He is always hears the cry of the poor.

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- 摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1998 年 10 月 25 日

今天的读经来自德训篇, 福音来自圣路加。两篇均论及有关对穷人, 寡妇, 孤儿, 及罪人的公义。在天主的眼里, 所有的肉身如同青草一般经历茂盛, 干枯, 然后随风飘去。天主注视的是我们每个人的灵魂。

福音提到法利塞人。不错，法利塞人声名狼藉。他们最初可是热爱天主的人。尽管面对外邦人的环境，他们决意服从天主的法律，因而赢得所有人的尊敬，包括犹太人和外邦人。

但是在耶稣时代，法利塞人已变成“因谦卑而骄傲”的一族。耶稣对他们实施了挑战，很快“法利塞人”和“伪善人”就变成了同义词。但并不是所有的法利塞人都名声扫地。尼苛德摩和加玛里耳在新约中就受到赞扬。法利塞人甚至自嘲。根据 Talmud 分类，法利塞人共有七种类别，六类属荒诞不经，只有一类属承行天主旨意类。

1. 负重类，背负沉重的负荷以期待接受赞美。
2. 蹒跚行走者，为引人注目，把自己拽到街上，搬石头砸自己的脚。
3. 头撞墙类，为移开目光以避免看到女人，却头撞南墙。
4. 自我羞辱，弓背哈腰族。
5. 算计类，服从法律是期望获得奖赏。
6. 害怕者，做好事的动机只是因为怕被惩罚。
7. 致力于公益者，是为了别人的最大益处。

朋友们，我们要像好的法利塞人那样，实践信仰是基于天主的爱。如你所知，即使你是个罪人，天主照样聆听你的祈祷，祂总是在聆听需要者的哀恸。