

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 12, 2023*

- *Excerpt from the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist  
February 11, 1995*

The first reading comes to us today from the Book of Sirach. In this first reading, there is an affirmation of the belief that all persons are endowed with a free will. We are constantly presented with choices in this life and we make our own decisions. That there exists a tendency in all persons toward both good and evil, seems to be an accepted fact. God, who sees all things and knows all things, understands all the deeds of humankind. To all of his creatures, God gives sufficient strength to choose the good and avoid the evil.

In the psalm, we hear praise for those “whose way is blameless, who walk in the way of the Lord...who observe His decrees, who seek Him with all their hearts.” The psalmist, in his own prayer, asks God for the wisdom to understand the wonders of the Law and the ability to follow those decrees in his own life.

The gospel passage today was an important one for the followers of Jesus who were of Jewish background. Jesus recognized the esteem with which these people held their prophets and it was not His intent to diminish their role in the life of the Jewish community. Therefore, we hear Jesus saying “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have come, not to abolish them, but to fulfill

them.” The commandments, Jesus continued, are to be followed and taught. However, Jesus went further in His expectations for those who would be His followers. The commandments were meant to be the guideposts in daily living. Those who chose to grow in holiness would have to go beyond the commandments and get to truly Christ-like living. “You have heard the commandment ‘You shall not commit murder,’....What I say to you is: Everyone who grows angry will be liable to judgement....You have heard the commandment, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ What I say is anyone who looks lustfully has already committed adultery in thought.”

Will there be times when anger invades our lives? For most of us, the answer is yes. Will there be times when temptations of the flesh seem overwhelming? Most probably there will be. Will there be times when it seems that temptations are so strong that we are unable to cope with them? If we are truly human, the answer will again be yes. However, as the writer of Sirach, the author of the psalm, and as Jesus Himself has told us...the grace of God is sufficient for us. We can overcome the temptations with which we struggle in life because the Lord is with us through all of them. And, if we should fall into sin, God is there to help us get up and start all over again.

**2023 年 2 月 12 日常年期第六主日弥撒福音反思  
(玛 5:17-37)**

不要以为经师和法利塞人离我们很远；其实，基督徒在很

多方面都跟他们没两样。比方，心知肚明自己是法利塞人，可是不敢直视自己黑暗内心，否认自己其实已经失去信仰，却假装热心往圣堂去。

或许生命有许多黑暗角落，比如因世界动荡而失去安全感，因被出卖而失去朋友，因被抛弃而失去爱情；可是通常都习惯蒙蔽心灵，麻醉自己说没事；对于失去信德，一样不断催眠自己是基督徒。

不过，心中还有一点火，不断提醒基督徒要成为宽容大方和关怀他人的人。然而，很多时候又被担心和焦虑压倒，然后就上瘾去寻求犯罪快感，深层自我麻醉；这就是信仰的行尸走肉。

耶稣给我们指出真正基督徒本色

首先，耶稣实践天主法律的真正精神，是爱；用以抵消经师和法利塞人肤浅演绎法律对人带来的负面影响；耶稣说：“除非你们的义德超过经师和法利塞人的义德，你们决进不了天国。”动词“超过”（*perisseusē*）可以解释为拥有丰满的正义，好能超过经师和法利塞人的虚仁假义。

耶稣说这些话，目的在于评论他们只顾外表，不管内心。这虚假行为使他们在他人面前表现极度虔诚，而事实上，心却远离虔诚和正直，没有在思言行为上承行天主旨意。这人心，就算身处圣殿，心中只有魔鬼，当然，结果是没资格进入天国。

耶稣继续根据法律属灵意义解释诫命；例如 22 节，他说：“凡向自己弟兄发怒的，就要受裁判，谁若向自己的弟兄说「傻子」，就要受议会的裁判；谁若说「疯子」，就要受火狱的罚。”名词“傻子”（*rhaka*，阿拉美语）意指没脑子

的笨人；耶稣强调不要以貌取人，因为每一个人，都是天主肖像。然后，耶稣展示信仰的积极面：“你若在祭坛前，要献你的礼物时，在那里想起你的弟兄有什么怨你的事，就把你的礼物留在那里，留在祭坛前，先去与你的弟兄和好，然后再来献你的礼物。”耶稣说明给天主所献礼物，是修和标记，无论外在还是内在。犹太人在奉献时，如果脑海中突然闪过对他人怨恨，很可能会仓促完成献礼，然后赶快与被冒犯的人修和。不过，耶稣提出要中断礼仪，先求宽恕，因为内心平安远比外在仪式更为重要。献礼之前先心存慈悲，或更好说；慈悲是天主要求人最好祭品。换言之，慈悲是献礼原因，而献礼非慈悲泉源。

有基督徒选择否认自己失去慈悲，只专注给天主奉献；但有些却为自己信仰堕落而哀恸，神修，由此开始；这就是为什么耶稣说哀恸的人是有福的。

当人为失去信仰而悲痛时，耶稣一定在天国为他们准备安慰。

赵必成神父

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