

Healing Relationships

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B | October 6, 2024

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember the best day for me locked up. My beautiful daughter, who was 16 years old at the time, had been asking me for years, why was I locked up and when was I getting out. I always avoided that question because I thought she was too young to understand. I was holding her hands when I told her the news. Instantly, she let go of my hands and started crying.

Knowing I had hurt the most important person in my life again, it broke my heart too. She told me "Why didn't you care about me? Why didn't you love me? Why didn't you think about your family? Why did you join a gang?" With tears in my eyes, I told her "I did care about you. I did and do love you with all my heart. I did think about my family. I joined a gang because I was young and immature. I would always tell myself that my family were the most important people in my life, but that was a lie. My actions continuously showed that my homies were the most important people in my life. Today, with all honesty, I could look you in the eyes and tell you that you are the most important person in my life."

What started to be one of the worst days of my life, turned into the best day for me locked up because I was able to release a burden I had been storing in my heart and even though I hurt my daughter, thanks to that conversation, our father-daughter relationship grew stronger. She is my life.

- Erick, who is in a California State Prison.



PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord God,

I know I have not lived the most righteous of lives and because of this I have hurt a lot of people I love. Give me the strength and courage to seek forgiveness and healing from those I hurt, especially my family.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 2: 18-24

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Blessed are you who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
your children like olive plants
around your table.

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 9-11

Brothers and sisters: He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels, " that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers."

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 10: 2-12

The Pharisees approached Jesus 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



MEDITATION: HEALING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

*(from the eyes of
a disciple)*

we were sitting
on the boat
gliding across the water
the breeze was blowing
cooling my head
our eyes fixed ahead
the distant shore
the sun was beating
my skin was hot
with an occasional
spray of fresh water

the twelve of us
were in the boat
with jesus
we had listened
to his teaching today
but were not
understanding
why wives and
husbands should
not divorce that
families should
not break up
when we had left
our families
wives and children
for this mission

robert shared
his dream with us
last night about
his soul mate and
how she taught him
how to love
but now she was gone
she died at
a young age

juan shared
about his family
how his dad left them
when juan was
younger
now he had left
his own family

jesus was sitting
next to me
sensing my frustration
“how did you like
today’s teaching?”
feeling cautious and
new to the mission
i did not want to
question the teacher

in the openness
of the sea
cool, fresh water
was spraying my face
i was overwhelmed
by the invitation
i had a desire to
share about myself
with jesus
feeling as if
it is just two of us

jesus
many of us
come from
a broken family
fathers leaving
mothers or
their children
like robert who
lost his soul mate
and we have left

our families

shame and anger
were welling up
in my eyes
i was feeling so lost
for a moment
in the absurdity
worried about failure

jesus,
it all seems
so hopeless
sometimes

looking into his eyes
like the sea
blue and deep
i was lost now
in jesus’ eyes
in the brokenness
the families broken
the lives that changed
that were separated

seeing now
in his eyes
the tears and pain
of my brokenness
knowing my pain
and questions
jesus took my hands
putting them
in the water
feeling the surface
but looking
deep below
dark and unknown
the answers
somewhere
were deep down

i was feeling
a spirit of healing
from this deep water
not just the surface water
but healing as
if jesus knows my pain
all the broken
relationships in
our hearts that
need to be healed
by the deep waters

i looked inside
my own heart past
the broken exterior
revealing
a depth within
my blood
red heart beating
life into me
pulsing blood
life

looking back
now at jesus
his eyes telling me
reassuring me
to stay with
the twelve
to trust that
somehow all
this brokenness
is not the end
that there is
something deeper



REFLECTION: I remember when my family found out about my crime. This is how I felt...
I remember... I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against
us, and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**R. For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you
peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our
sins, but on the faith of your Church, and
grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to
his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter
under my roof, but only say the word and
my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord God,
Help me on my journey to find your everlasting
love. Help me to stay on a righteous path so I may
grow ever closer to your glory and ever closer to
my family.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

