

Saturday 9th Week Ordinary Time June 10, 2017 St. Agnes Church

“Let the judgment begin.” This is a good title for today’s gospel.
Jesus, Son of God, has come into the world. He reveals God’s judgment on His people.
A truth is recognized: God sees both outer appearance and inner attitude.
Another recognized truth: human beings are blinded to their own sinfulness.

What happens when someone reveals to us our sinfulness?
We become angry. We become defensive.
Instead of saying “I’ll take your observations under consideration”
we say . “How dare you.” “You have no room to talk.”
“Let him with no sin be the first to throw a stone.”
We don’t want to admit it, but sometimes others are accurate in their observations.
And surely Jesus is accurate in his assessment of the scribes.

When we stand before God, we will not be judged by our actions and words
as much as we will be judged according to our inner impulses, our inner attitudes.

By all appearances, the scribes, the religious lawyers of Jesus’ day, were in a good relationship with God.
They were blessed with physical health and financial security...
they received social honor and respect...which to them were sure signs of God’s favor.

Jesus brings divine judgment to the world.
God sees what is hidden in the human heart.
There is sin hidden in the hearts of the scribes: greed, hypocrisy, coveting,
selfishness, self-aggrandizement, hubris, superiority, contempt.
And there is true faithfulness hidden in the heart of the poor widow.

The world sees the scribe as being successful...someone to be emulated.
The world sees the widow as someone who is cursed.
A life like hers is to be avoided at all costs.
The scribes were concerned for their worldly reputation.
The widow was concerned about doing what is right in the eyes of God.
According to Jesus, the scribe is an example of a disordered existence.
There is discipline but there is no mercy.
The scribe is blinded by arrogance and self-importance.
The widow is living according to God’s order of things.
There is sacrifice and total dependence upon God.
The widow sees what is of God and acts accordingly.
Where the scribe is confident that his achievements earn him God’s deliverance
the widow knows her deliverance is by God’s generosity alone.

With every passing day we are one day closer...to divine judgment.
There are consequences not only for every word we speak, every action we choose
but also for every inner impulse, every inner attitude, every sinful desire.
On judgment day no excuses will be accepted. None.
“But Lord, I was blind. I couldn’t see.”
And God will say “why didn’t you seek the healing I made available to you.”
And we will say “but Lord I did all I could to avoid evil”
And the Lord will say “but you didn’t fulfill your obligation, your duty, to do the good.”

Today’s prayer: “O Lord, have mercy on us. Save us from our indifference to the plight of others and
our lack of concern for right judgment. Help us to order our lives according to the truths revealed to the
world by Jesus Your Son. Deliver us from our sinful thoughts and desires. Inspire us to embrace the
widow as an example of inner dedication and generosity. Amen!”