

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24*

◆ **Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 8:7.9.13-15*

◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 5:21-43*

This 1st reading is from the Book of Wisdom, Old Testament ; the writer of Wisdom lived in the middle of the 1st century B.C. ; By that time belief in the immortality of virtuous souls had become accepted, as in, those who had led a life of virtue were destined to be with God forever ; we can grasp in this same reading that whatever God created was essentially good and life-giving, we read “THE WORLD’S CREATED THINGS HAVE HEALTH IN THEM, IN THEM NO FATAL POISON CAN BE FOUND” in other words, everything that God created has a life-giving purpose ; Then suddenly the tone changes to something completely different “YET GOD MADE MAN IMPERISHABLE, HE MADE HIM IN THE IMAGE OF HIS OWN NATURE ; IT WAS THE DEVIL’S ENVY THAT BROUGHT DEATH INTO THE WORLD” now we have an issue here because at some stage all of us will have to face death whether we’ve been virtuous or not-so-virtuous ; so there must be another type of death to be analysed in this context ; Is there such a thing as being dead spiritually? Jesus once made a comment about those who heard his message of repentance but they decided not to accept it, he said “LEAVE THE DEAD TO BURY THEIR DEAD” (Matthew 8 ; 22), and on he went to other villages & towns.

When drug addicts and those addicted to alcohol are about to go under and cry out for help, in actual fact they have already descended into a type of spiritual death ; As any recovering addict will tell you, the 12-step-programme-of-recovery is a spiritual programme of recovery “ I WAS KILLING MY SOUL WITH LETHAL SUBSTANCE, I WAS DEAD BUT NOW I AM COMING BACK TO LIFE”.

Spiritual death came into the world as a consequence of sin, and sin ultimately means to turn away from God with clear knowledge and full consent. So, as always, we are left with our choices ; life and death are there for our choosing ; or to put it this way, which death is worse? mortal ordinary death from this earthly life thru' natural or tragic circumstances(hopefully never!) or that other death referred to, the death of our friendship with God which of course is another definition of Hell ; the obvious best way to avoid a gradual spiritual death is of course to remain in regular contact with God thru' prayer, Eucharist, regular examination of conscience, confession and works of charity, and while you'r at it, be careful not to be taken in by so much worldly rubbish and all those deceitful promises of how to be happy quickly, the devil is full of disguises and always "smiling" at us whether we know it or not.

Lastly, something to think about! Heaven is defined as the true home of the soul, enjoying an eternal harmonious cycle of love with the God and Father of us all, whereas Hell is defined as an eternal state of no hope and grinding remorse for intentionally and constantly refusing to allow in the guidance of the Holy Spirit in order to give life to the soul ; Hell is eternal remorse! we are free to choose where we wish to end up for eternity.

REJOICE YOU WHO ARE HEALTHY, and keep on rejoicing.....

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