

## Homily 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday #3

FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIAL...IN OUR FIRST READING: “THUS SAYS THE LORD, YOU SAY THE LORD’S WAY IS NOT FAIR”;

I REMEMBER WATCHING SPORTS ON TELEVISION WITH MY MOM. SINCE MY DAD DIED WHEN I WAS 14, THIS WAS ONE OF THE THINGS SHE HAD TO ENDURE WITH HER SPORTS MINDED SON, WHICH SHE DID GLADLY..... BUT NOT TOO GRACEFULLY AT TIMES. I STILL REMEMBER ONE OF THE FIRST SAINTS GAMES WE WATCHED TOGETHER ON TELEVISION , SHE SAID; “IT’S NOT FAIR”.

I SAID “WHAT’S NOT FAIR MOM?”

SHE SAID; THEIR PLAYERS ARE BIGGER AND FASTER THAN OURS, IT’S JUST NOT FAIR?

(2)

**WE HEAR THAT A LOT DON'T WE;**

**"IT'S NOT FAIR" ...**

**OUR CHILDREN MIGHT SAY:**

**"IT'S JUST NOT FAIR...EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE CLASS IS GOING, WHY CAN'T I GO." Of**

**COURSE, IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING FAIR, WE'RE JUST TRYING TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM.**

**THEY DON'T AGREE, SO THEY SAY IT'S**

**"UNFAIR".**

**IN TODAYS READING FROM THE PROFHET**

**EZEKIAL, THE ISREALITES SAY "THE LORD'S**

**WAY IS NOT FAIR". THEY'RE REFERRING**

**TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS OF SINNERS WHO**

**TURNED FROM THEIR WICKEDNESS TO DO**

**WHAT WAS "RIGHT"!**

(3)

**NOW, THE ISREALITES THOUGHT THIS WAS UNFAIR BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN THEIR CUSTOM FOR GENERATIONS TO; NOT ONLY HOLD THE SINNER ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR SINS, BUT TO HOLD THEIR DESCENDENTS ACCOUNTABLE AS WELL. SO, THIS PROPHECY, THIS WORD FROM GOD, REPRESENTED THE CHANGE OF A LONG TRADITION FOR THE JEWS, SO THEY SAID, "IT'S NOT FAIR...SO GOD SAYS TO THEM, IF SINNERS TURN FROM WICKEDNESS AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT, I WILL FORGIVE THEM...IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING FAIR AT ALL....IT'S ABOUT DOING THE FATHER'S WILL.**

**GOD'S TALKING ABOUT FORGIVENESS IF WE DO GOD'S WILL, A THEME THAT RESONATES THROUGH SCRIPTURES, OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW. THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS IF WE BUT TURN AWAY FROM OUR SINS AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT. SO, WHAT IS RIGHT?**

**ST. PAUL'S DEFINITION OF RIGHT INCLUDES**

**HUMILITY; HE TELLS THE PHILLIPIANS; "DO**

**NOTHING OUT OF SELFISHNESS OR OUT OF**

**VAINGLORY; RATHER, HUMBLY REGARD**

**OTHERS AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN**

**YOURSELVES, EACH LOOKING OUT NOT FOR**

**HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THOSE OF**

**OTHERS. THIS IS DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, IT'S**

**DOING THE FATHER'S WILL!**

(5)

IN OUR GOSPEL TODAY, BOTH SONS SAY  
ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER; JESUS  
SAYS THE FIRST SON DID HIS FATHER'S WILL,  
EVEN IF HE REFUSED AT FIRST. HE DID  
WHAT WAS RIGHT! THE SECOND SON CHOSE  
NOT TO DO HIS FATHER'S WILL! THE POINT IS;  
WE HAVE A CHOICE, AND OUR CHOICES HAVE  
BEARING ON OUR SALVATION... IT'S NOT  
JUST WHAT WE SAY, IT'S WHAT WE DO AS  
WELL. IN TODAY'S TERMS, WE CAN'T JUST  
TALK THE TALK, WE HAVE TO WALK THE  
WALK. IT'S DOING THE FATHER'S WILL THAT  
HELPS PAVE THE ROAD TO HEAVEN! AND  
AGAIN HERE, BEING FAIR HAS NOTHING TO  
DO WITH IT.

**(6)**

**NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT BEING TREATED FAIRLY OR UNFAIRLY BY GOD. IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT WE ARE THE ONE'S GETTING THE UNFAIR SHARE FROM GOD. JUST THINK OF ALL HE HAS BLESSED US WITH.**

**YET, WE MAY STILL SAY "IT'S UNFAIR" WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO US OR EVEN WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN OTHERS.... INSTEAD OF US....IT'S HUMAN NATURE.**

**(7)**

**THINK ABOUT THIS;..... LIFE IS 1%  
WHAT HAPPENS TO US AND 99% WHAT WE  
DO WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ARE  
GIVEN. LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN!!!! LIFE IS 1%  
WHAT HAPPENS TO US, AND 99% HOW WE  
RESPOND TO IT. HOW MANY TIMES DO WE  
LET THAT 1% COMPLETELY CONSUME US?  
WE FORGET ABOUT ALL THE GOOD THINGS  
GOD HAS GIVEN US, NOT TO MENTION, THE  
HELP, THE CONSOLATION, THE PEACE AND  
THE FORGIVENESS HE OFFERS US IF WE  
HUMBLE OURSELVES AND JUST ASK!**

**(8)**

**THIS MAKES ME THINK OF THE CHRISTMAS  
MOVIE; "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"?**

**REMEMBER IT? OL' GEORGE BAILY WAS SO  
FOCUSED ON THE BAD THINGS GOING ON, HE  
FORGOT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE HE LOVED;  
THE PEOPLE THAT LOVED HIM; AND ALL THE  
WONDERFUL WAYS GOD HAD USED HIM TO  
ENRICH THE LIVES OF OTHERS.**

**WE DO FORGET HOW GOOD WE HAVE IT**

**SOMETIMES, DON'T WE? WE EVEN FORGET**

**ABOUT GOD SOMETIMES! BUT GOD.....HE  
NEVER FORGETS US....HE ALWAYS FORGIVES  
US, AND HE'S ALWAYS THERE TO HELP US; TO  
SHOW US THE WAY, JUST LIKE HE DID OL'  
GEORGE BAILY THAT NIGHT IN THE MOVIE.**

(9)

ALL THIS HAVING BEEN SAID, IT'S JUST OUR  
HUMAN NATURE, SO BEFORE LONG, WE'LL  
FIND OURSELVES SAYING THE SAME THING;  
"LIFE'S JUST NOT FAIR"!

BUT FROM NOW ON, WHEN THAT THOUGHT  
CROSSES OUR MINDS....I WANT US TO  
REMEMBER TWO THINGS; FIRST; LIFE IS 1%  
WHAT HAPPENS TO US AND 99% HOW WE  
RESPOND. SECOND, AND MORE  
IMPORTANTLY;GOD IS ALWAYS THERE TO  
HELP US MAKE THE MOST OF THAT 99%...TO  
SHOW US THE WAY....HIS WILL....HIS  
WAY!!!!.....AND ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GIVE  
IT UP TO HIM....HUMBLE OURSELVES AND ASK.

(10)

**OUR RESPONSORIAL TODAY, PSALM 25, SAYS**

**IT PERFECTLY:**

**“GOOD AND UPRIGHT IS THE LORD; THUS HE**

**SHOWS SINNERS THE WAY, HE GUIDES THE**

**HUMBLE TO JUSTICE AND TEACHES THE**

**HUMBLE HIS WAY!”**