

Homily 26th 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!”