

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 7th February 2022

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6:39-45

The end of our first reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus or Sirach gives a warning of not praising the man before he has spoken (Sirach 27:8). The similar thought is also at the end of the gospel where Jesus states that good people draw what is good from the goodness stored in their hearts while bad people also store what is bad in their hearts (Luke 6:45).

The central message of the word of God for this Sunday is about keeping our inner self pure and clean, so that what we do will only reflect the goodness we have stored within. We cannot act good while we have evil within us, and likewise we cannot do evil while we are good inside. The season of Lent which we begin this Wednesday calls us to purify our hearts and not just focus on the exterior. In fact the exterior as we read in our readings is inspired by what we have within.

The readings of today make me think about the definition of a sacrament, "***an outward sign for inner grace.***" There is indeed a relationship between who we are inwardly and what we do outwardly. Let us pray for the grace of constantly purifying our inner selves. Saint Ignatius of Loyola calls us to keep our inner selves in check by doing spiritual examination of conscience which must be done twice a day, that is during the day and before we sleep.

***May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries as I pray for your personal intentions.***

Have a wonderful Sunday.

Fr Callistus