

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6: 27-38

1 Samuel 26:23

"Today the Lord has put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed."

The gesture of David in our first reading is key to understanding the other readings of today. **This made David truly great and confirmed the Lord's grace upon him** as he was given an honour of being the ancestor of God's only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. David was given a rare opportunity of having Saul in his power. At the beginning of the reading, we read that Saul had actually gone to seek David, and to do away with him. He had tried to do that several times. Saul's own son Jonathan, who was David's friend, tried to save David. Saul on the other hand was relentless. David would have been justified in attacking first as this could have been seen as an attack in self-defence. David chose not to, he recognized the Lord's anointing in Saul and did not lay his hand on him. **David acted like God, he forgave as God forgives.** As our responsorial Psalm 102 states, "as far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sins." BY so doing David actually saved Saul. If you read the entire chapter you will see a repentant Saul, who finally recognized David as the Lord's chosen one.

Jesus in our gospel calls us to do what appears to be ***extremely impossible, loving our enemies and doing good to those who persecute us.*** David is presented as a perfect example for us. It is interesting that such an example comes from the Old Testament. David had divine DNA in him as the fully divine Son of God was to be born out of his stock, and in his house. ***We have been blessed and given privileges of sharing in the divine life of our Lord through the sacraments we have received.*** Just like David, we are also empowered to do things that God does. Jesus is therefore not unrealistic in what he is calling us to do in our gospel of today. **Loving our enemies and those that hate us** can be done if we recognize in them the image and likeness of God, and even the fact that God has also chosen and consecrated them. David did not see an enemy who was determined to do away with him in Saul, but he saw the one that God chose and anointed. We are called to see others as God sees them. Saint Paul in our second reading talks about the last Adam who became a life giving spirit. **We are all sharers of this great quality of the last Adam. Revealing God's love to those who are not so good can actually change their lives.** God's delight is seeing an evil person repenting and gaining life. As life giving spirits, we too are called to touch the lives of those who do evil, and help them to repent and save their lives.

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 Khathali