

# **CELEBRATE SABBATH**

## **Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Forbearance is making allowance for each other's shortfalls, and imperfections.**

### **Genesis 3:9-15, 20**

In the garden, man enjoyed an intimacy with God which was destroyed by disobedience. Ashamed and afraid man and woman hid themselves from God. This excerpt tells us that through disobedience sin entered the world, and as a result, man and woman experienced separation, suffering, and ultimately death. Man and woman failed to be faithful to what God made them to be. Sin is a violation of what God made us to be.

**Be faithful to what God made you to be.**

### **Psalm 130**

This is one of the Psalms of Ascent.... from the depth to the heights. The geographical climb up to Jerusalem that the pilgrim must take symbolizes the pilgrim's spiritual ascent to God. This movement from the "depths" to the heights can happen only in the unmerited grace of God, "If you, O Lord, kept a record of our sins, who can stand?.....with you is forgiveness...."

This is the amazing Grace: with you is forgiveness! And you don't keep records!

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
O Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.  
If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.**

### **2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1**

Paul makes a few beautiful statements which may encourage those of us who are getting on in years. He says, "we do not lose heart because our inner being is renewed each day, even though our body is being destroyed at the same time". Although we are aging, we can continue to grow into even more beautiful persons, in spite of the fact that the agility and physical functions of our body decay. "You", the person you make yourself now, will live forever. "We have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling....to last forever.

### **Mark 3:20-35**

Mark tells us that the relatives of Jesus came to take him home. They came to the conclusion that he was

out of his mind. Jesus had left his home and his father's carpenter business in Nazareth and began preaching in the streets. He had come into conflict with orthodox leaders of the community. He had broken a few laws of the community which the orthodox Jew considered sacred. He gathered a strange group of men around him...seemed like bad company. Only a man who is out of his mind would do what he had done. Hence the family came to take him home.

**Two major thoughts emerge from this episode:**

**(1) We often draw conclusions, judgments and the like without knowing and understanding the truth. We are invited to remain open to searching and knowing and understanding the truth and be free from our prejudices.**

**(2) Perhaps, the family of Jesus did not fully understand. But they were there to help, to protect and safeguard. How wonderful it is to have families that would support and safeguard the interest of its members even in the midst of lack of knowledge, differences of opinions, misunderstanding and the like. We are invited to reflect on deepening family connections.**

Jesus was accused of being possessed by Beelzebul. Jesus asked them how Satan could expel Satan. Internal dissention, disintegration within would cause kingdoms to fall. Jesus had to be in harmony with goodness, with truth, with love, with God to stand against evil forces. **Harmony within is a necessary condition for overcoming enemy forces, whatever the enemy may be! Reflect on need for unity, integrity, harmony!**

In Jewish thought (not as we understand it today), the Holy Spirit had three great functions: the revelation of God's truth, enabling men to recognize that truth when it is revealed and empowering men to live the truth. This Gospel passage (Mk.28-30) should be understood in light of this concept of the Holy Spirit. If a man, by repeated refusal of God's guidance (Holy Spirit's revelation) has lost the ability to recognize goodness when he sees it and if he has got his moral values so twisted (inverted) that evil to him is good and good to him is evil - then he is not conscious of sin, he cannot repent and therefore he cannot experience forgiveness. And that is the sin against the Holy Spirit.

**This passage speaks more about the need for recognizing evil and evil forces; repenting of ones' failures and accepting forgiveness...than about not being forgiven of a particular sin. Reflect on the need to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the gift of discernment. Pray for those who have not been enlightened, those who have not come to know the truth, those who have not experienced Forgiveness and Grace.**

This excerpt tells us about the family of Jesus coming to meet him. Jesus responded by saying, "Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me."

True relationship may be built on common experiences. Followers of Jesus have a common experience. True relationship may be built on common interest. Followers of Jesus have a common interest.

True relationship may be built on common goal, common purpose, common mission. Followers of Jesus have a common, shared mission. True relationship lies, most of all, in a common obedience. Followers of Jesus have a common obedience.

**Such relationships go far beyond “blood’ relationships. Obedience to God’s will make us true brothers and sisters in Christ.**

**Saint of the Day, June 9 - St. Ephrem and 12 other saints are remembered this day.**

Ephrem was born in Nisibis, Mesopotamia in the year 306. He was baptized as a young man and became a renowned teacher in his native city. When the Persians took control of Nisibis, Ephrem fled to Edessa, along with many other Christians for refuge. He was ordained a deacon but declined becoming a priest. Ephrem was said to have avoided presbyterial consecration by feigning madness!

He was a poet, teacher, orator, and an ardent defender of the faith. He wrote many hymns and poems in defense of faith and against the heretics of his day. His poems and hymns reflected true doctrine of the church. He is the only Syrian recognized as a doctor of the Church. Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the Church’s public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns have earned him the title “Harp of the Holy Spirit.”

Ephrem preferred a simple, austere life, living in a small cave overlooking the city of Edessa. It was here that he died around 373.

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs