

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

February 27, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:4-7 † 1 Corinthians: 15:54-58 † Luke: 6:39-45



Reflection by: Sister Ann Marie Rimmer, OP

Get the Heart Right

The readings this week continue the education of followers of Jesus to fashion them (and us) as true disciples. "I say love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who mistreat you. Bless those who curse you." The lessons are clear, simple to understand, but not easy. Today's readings insist that there must be congruity between one's words and one's actions. This past year we have experienced politicians who are brilliant orators who inspire us, only to find out that their actions were seriously questionable. We have experienced athletes whose skills can take our breath away; then we find out they cheated. There is no connection between image and action. We listen to politicians who deny the validity of the presidential election when no evidence to the contrary is presented, and courts validate the election. Jesus calls them hypocrites. It's a matter of integrity.

Jesus is the master teacher. He uses Old Testament wisdom to show a connection between ancient Israel and his followers by using proverbs, parables and examples from everyday life and everyday concerns. A good tree cannot bear rotten fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Actions flow from the disposition of one's heart. Being a carpenter's son, Jesus cautions us to beware of the splinter in our neighbor's eye and not to acknowledge the plank in our own eye.

It is a lot to live up to. It could be discouraging except for what Paul tells the Corinthians. We must never forget that transformation is possible, not by our own efforts but through the death and resurrection of Christ. It was through his resurrection that human life has been changed for all times. Jesus is the true Word spoken. What he says and what he does is one. We are the beneficiaries of the marvels he has wrought. He enables us to persevere in the good work we are about. It is through a righteous life and not just prayers that we can be those whose heart is right.