

FEBRUARY 29, 2020
Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Luke 5: 27-32

BE GOOD AND DO GOOD.

When our neighbors fall, commit sins, and go astray, do we scold, admonish or yell at them? Or do we understand, forgive, help them? Our first reading today from Prophet Isaiah help us what we must do when our neighbors fall on sins and wrongdoing: “If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.”¹ God will repays us in every good things we do to others. He will bless us, shower us good gifts and give us abundant graces spiritually and materially. As the saying goes, ‘The more you give, the more you will receive.’

While in our gospel, the calling of Levi also known as Matthew, raised a lot of questions to the religious leaders because Jesus was associating Himself to public sinners like Levi. Jesus answered them with a remarkable words and an invitation too for those who want to follow Him: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.”²

“When the Pharisees challenged Jesus unorthodox behavior in eating with public sinners, Jesus' defense was quite simple. A doctor doesn't need to treat healthy people - instead he goes to those who are sick. Jesus likewise sought out those in the greatest need. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. Jesus

¹ Isaiah 58: 10 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² Luke 5: 31-32 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for his people and to restore them to wholeness of life.”³

So, my brothers and sisters, we all sinners, we need Jesus to heal us. Let us approach Him, therefore in this Eucharist that our Lord will give us healing in body and soul. May He also bless us as we bless other people by helping, supporting and lending our hands to get them up from their sinfulness, not to condemn but understanding them, and not to be indifferent but to be considerate to them. As prophet Isaiah is reminding us, we will receive reward for every good deed we do to others. Be good and do good.

³ dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org