

27th Sunday Ordinary Time



Today's readings focus on Marriage as a mutual commitment. Each must reach out to the other. The foundation should be mutual respect and esteem.

The first reading speaks of the bond between husband and wife. God provides animals for man's companionship. The naming of them indicates his authority over them. Yet he is still lonely. "Bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" is a formula of abiding mutual loyalty between man and woman. It implies fidelity through thick (bones) and thin(flesh). Becoming one flesh points out that marriage cannot be dissolved. The creation of woman from the body of man does in no way make woman less than the equal of the man. This is true in the way that man was created from the earth does not make him subservient to the earth.

The benefits of loyalty are emphasized in the responsorial psalm. Truly happy are all who are faithful to Yahweh. The resulting blessings bring fertility to the land and the marriage bed. The fidelity of this one relationship impacts the good of the nation.

In the gospel, Jesus points out that the reason for divorce is the stubbornness of the people. They failed to attain the high demands of the creation scriptures. Not even the set-aside of Moses alters God's grand design.

Christ speaks of woman and children as the powerless in society. We must accept the gift of salvation, as the powerless accept any gift. We must be like little children.