March 3, 2019
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:4-7
1 Cor 15:54-58
Lk 6:39-45

By Don Timmerman

Let me call your attention to the second reading today. “O death, where is thy victory, where is thy sting?” For a Christian, a follower of Christ, death of the body is not the greatest evil. We believe that the death of the body does not mean the end of life. We believe in everlasting life. St. Paul, I believe, is saying that if we try to be perfect, as our God is perfect, by loving and doing good to all, even to those who hurt us, we need not fear death. Christ promised us eternal happiness if we choose to follow his great command of love for all. People always tell me that if I love my enemies and those who do wrong, I may end up dead. This is true. There is always the risk of our body dying. But that is not the end of life. If I have chosen to be like Christ to do good to all, even the terrorists and criminals, my body may die early, but I will have eternal happiness. Death, where is your sting? I feel we Christians must live according to the will of Christ if we really want to experience eternal joy.

Because we are so obsessed with living forever in our earthly bodies we will do what we know is wrong in hopes that the body will continue living. We build weapons, go to war and destroy people and property all for the sake of prolonging the life of our bodies. We refuse to follow the great command of Christ in order to live as long as we can in our bodies. We foolishly will steal, kill, disrespect and show hate to others in order keep our bodies alive. We risk losing the everlasting life of happiness for the sake of maintaining the existence of the body. We spend trillions of dollars trying to preserve our bodies while at the same time knowing our bodies will one day return to dust. If we would instead spend trillions of dollars on health care, housing, famine relief, helping those without the basics of life we would be opting for eternal happiness. Where is the sting of the death of the body? We are spending $717 billion more on the military because we foolishly believe that we will all be safer and have longer lives here on earth if we have more weapons, more soldiers and more bombs and ammunition to kill off those who may hurt us. In fact, the military cannot account for $21 trillion it has already received from tax payers. Where did the money go? Who knows? The military does not know. Who knows? Why are we not outraged by this? Because most Americans foolishly believe that the Pentagon will preserve our life on earth. They believe it is more important to live as long as we can in our earthly bodies than to follow the command of Christ.
In today's Gospel the author presents our situation. We blame others for doing harm while at the same time we do others harm. We need to take the beam out of our eyes, and we will see the splinter in our neighbor’s eye. We lambaste terrorists for harming others while as the same time we are bombing little children into shreds. We glorify people who fight and kill others so our bodies will live longer. We continue to remain blind to our own faults and so we keep repeating them. We have been at war for 97% of our nation’s existence.

Yet we continue to pay for these wars thinking that this will bring us salvation, longer lives on earth. We are acting like the blind leading the blind. We must stop being hypocrites, and begin living like Christ, refusing to harm anyone, sinner or saint, and doing good to all while we are on earth. Let us not ruin our chances for eternal life of happiness by choosing to do wrong in order to prolong our earthly lives.

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