

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2/16/2020

Can we perceive what God's word is calling us to do? In the first reading, Sirach says to the people 'if you want you can choose to keep the commandments it will save us. It says if we choose to trust in God we shall live. The choice is ours then. So how could we always choose the things that coincides with God's will and purpose for us? The answer to that question is that we need divine wisdom to guide and shine through our decisions. We need to allow divine wisdom to guide us. The blessings that comes from choosing good is eternal. It is beyond this world. Jesus is a perfect example of that. Jesus chose to humble himself and the Father lifted him up and gave him a name which is above every other name. Again, Jesus chose to die for our salvation and the eternal reward is conquering the grave and winning for all his followers' victory over the grave. This is why the gospel is calling us to pursue some higher things and not settle for the barest minimum. To some of us even the minimum is difficult to accomplish. Jesus says unless our righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the pharisees we will have no access to the kingdom of heaven.

Michael Landon, the late highway to heaven actor, tells the story of how driving home one Friday afternoon on a Los Angeles freeway he observed the horns blaring, tempers flaring and people hurling insults at each other from car windows. He recounts how he asked himself why there was so much anger everywhere. Why do people hate one another so much? Why is so much energy wasted on rage? He asked himself what will happen if such anger was rather channeled to kindness. This thought led to the start of a TV series Highway to Heaven which aired from 84-89.

I guess what Landon saw is not so different from what we see on a regular basis. There is so much rage and anger; there is so much bitterness and hurts and injuries everywhere. Yes, we all need divine wisdom to choose to travel on the highway to heaven. That means choosing the commandment by loving God and our neighbor and by living in harmony with all others. Lord, please grant us the divine wisdom anew to choose things in this life that leads to salvation.

Praise be Jesus Christ!