

**Similar theme to last week**

**It's not fair**

**Here they are talking of how God treats us**

**How He will wipe out any remembrance of sin**

**If we will only turn away from that sin**

**But if a just person begins to act in wickedness**

**He will be condemned**

**But this is in line with an old saying of Aristotle**

***Don't listen to a person's words***

***Watch what they do***

**Our first reading was from Ecclesiastes**

**And this chapter points to a turning point in spirituality**

**Earlier in this same chapter we read**

**A father has eaten green grapes**

**And his children's teeth are set on edge**

**In other words**

**The children pay for the fathers sins**

**But our reading today points out that our actions matter**

**Actions have consequences**

**We have personal responsibility in doing good and avoiding evil**

**This is at the heart of one of the recent changes in our Creed**

**We used to say 'We believe'**

**But now we begin 'I believe'**

**This shows a personal responsibility**

**An identity before God**

**Each one of us, every Sunday**

**Is called to take a stand**

**Make a profession of our faith**

**But not only in words**

**But in action**

**So how is it God will wipe out our sin?**

**St Paul tells us it is through Jesus Christ**

***The Son of God, who humbled himself on our behalf***

***And became obedient to the point of death***

***So we could be washed clean from our sin***

**The forgiveness offered by God in the Old Testament**

**Was in anticipation of what was accomplished in the New Covenant**

**God's mercy offered to all people, and for all times**

**It is not free**

**It came at the cost of the life of Jesus**

**Offered freely for all**

**So the Church calls all to conversion and belief in the Gospel**

***So that every knee will bend and every tongue confess***

***That Jesus Christ is Lord***

***To the Glory of God the Father***

**A conversion is illustrated in our Gospel**

**Where the father goes to his son**

**Go work in my vineyard today**

**And he replies 'No'**

**But then repents and goes**

**To the second son**

**The same instruction**

**This time the reply is 'yes father'**

**But he never makes it**

**So Jesus asks: which son did the will of the father?**

**The one who actually does the work**

**The one that goes**

**It is not that our words do not matter**

**They do**

**The 'no' of the first son hurt the father**

**No parent likes to hear this**

**Go take out the garbage**

**Clean your room**

**Walk and feed your dog**

**If the child replies 'no' it causes pain**

**It causes pain to our heavenly father as well**

**We are called to go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation**

**For younger children go to CCD classes**

**Go to confirmation class**

**For all of us there are days of abstinence and fasting**

**Our no, our refusal causes pain to the heart of God**

**When we repent and do what we are called to do causes joy**

**But we cannot deny the pain that is caused**

**The same with our 'yes'**

**This immediately causes joy in a parent**

**Giving these same instructions**

**Hearing an immediate yes**

**But then the parent comes back in a half hour**

**The task is not done**

**It is the lack of action that causes pain**

**So, yes our words do matter**

**But even more so are our actions**

**We each have our mission**

**Look into a mirror and ask God**

**What is it you are calling me to today?**

**It may be being faithful to my duties as a husband or wife**

**A son or daughter**

**An employer or employee**

**A student**

**Or it may be He has a special invitation**

**To serve Him in a special way**

**Yeah, it can be a terrifying to ask this question**

**It can mean that we are called to reverse course**

**Or it may mean that we stay the course**

**Fine adjustments**

**How do we respond to God's invitation?**

**Am I taking responsibility?**

**Or do I try to go with the flow?**

**Hide behind the crowd**

**How we actually live shows what we truly believe**

**I may be able to quote Scripture chapter and verse**

**But am I living my faith?**

**Patriotism isn't about getting the flag out on July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Having a picnic**

**It is about voting, paying taxes and being involved in the community**

**We all have a gap between what we proclaim and how we live**

**Is Jesus really the Lord of our life?**

**My finances? My marriage?**

**My social life? My work?**

**Conversion isn't so much about joining a church**

**It is about living faithful Catholic, Christian lives**

**In everything**

**This parable shows us that our no can become a yes**

**With God's grace and our effort**

**But we also have to be realistic**

**Our 'yes' can become a 'no'**

**Sin is alive and well in our world**

**At Jesus' time, it was tax collectors and prostitutes**

**It is that and so much more today**

**TV, movies, music, internet**

**Sexual sin, gluttony, sloth, envy**

**We can become comfortable around this**

**Or we can oppose it, fight it**

**It is about words and actions**

**Those that are out there for everyone to see and hear**

**Those that are hidden in the recess of our heart**

**What do my actions tell the world?**

**What do they tell God?**

**God has an invitation for you**

**Yes or no?**