

“All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God”

Because of the sin of Adam, sin and death entered the world and spread to everyone, everywhere, throughout human history. Except of course Mary, who was saved from sin by receiving the grace to be preserved from it.

Original sin and its consequences that lead to personal sin and the development of cultures that allow the enemy to corrupt and destroy, this is what was fueling the hatred among most of the ruling class of Israel who were against Jeremiah, the Lord’s prophet. They didn’t like what the Lord was trying to tell them. They didn’t want to be ‘seen in the light’. They were desperate to remain in their sin. They were watching and waiting for him to slip up, eager with anticipation for his destruction. Instead, since they were acting against God and God’s prophet, they suffered either death or exile at the hands of the Babylonians, and Jeremiah was vindicated.

The dire effects of Original Sin rage today, and I don’t think anyone has a problem seeing the evil that plagues the world. Much of the world’s greatest good has been done in the name of God. So too has much of the greatest evil. As Catholics, we must own, take responsibility for and tackle head-on the evils that are committed by the baptized children of God, the Church. Much, if not all, of this evil occurs because people pretend that it isn’t happening, because they choose to keep it in the dark. This is part of the broken human condition and can only be remedied by God through salvation.

Saint Paul reminds us that even though sin had a head start and plenty of time to spread it was nothing compared to the grace that flows from God through the Cross of our salvation.

Trust in God.

God didn’t leave Jeremiah, the Apostles or us, to battle the enemy alone. In today’s Gospel Our Lord reminds the Apostles that they only need to stand with him and not be afraid of anything except the eternal consequence of being unrepentant. He sent his Son, who wiped away the sins of the world in Baptism and brought the grace of God to us again. He came to show us how precious we are in his eyes and the eyes of Our Heavenly Father.

Although we all have moments where we question whether the Lord really knows what is going on or truly cares about what will happen to us. Trust in Our Lord should embolden us, more than evil and disbelief in the world should intimidate us. ‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul’.

Bring it into the light.

We must keep shining that powerful light into the dark, dusty corners of our own personal life. It is painful to unearth what we do not want to see, especially when we are the very field in which it grows. But Christ says: do not be afraid. We must bring everything that we face in life into this burning light of Christ’s love.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. (Jude 24-25)

We say that, through Baptism, we live in him. And that is our goal. To live in him. Proclamation is a journey in several directions. When, for example, we sing a proclamation in Church, we are proclaiming Christ’s message to those gathered. But Our hearts should be open to receive the message we are proclaiming. Our relationship with God hangs on that selfless openness to receive him. We must keep doing it, every day. Once just isn’t enough. This daily proclamation to ourselves, in which we slowly transform into the message we are proclaiming, is the beginning of living wholly in him.

“I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me”