



Daily Reflections

February 27, 2017

Scripture

Sirach 17: 20-24

To the penitent God provides a way back,
he encourages those who are losing hope
and has chosen for them the lot of truth.

Return to him and give up sin,
pray to the LORD and make your offenses few.

Turn again to the Most High and away from your sin,
hate intensely what he loathes,

and know the justice and judgments of God,

Stand firm in the way set before you,

in prayer to the Most High God.

Who in the nether world can glorify the Most High

in place of the living who offer their praise?

Dwell no longer in the error of the ungodly,

but offer your praise before death.

No more can the dead give praise

than those who have never lived;

You who are alive and well
shall praise and glorify God in his mercies.
How great the mercy of the LORD,
his forgiveness of those who return to him!

Our Scripture Reflection

What a beautiful scripture passage we have before us today from the sage Ben Sira. He tells us that our merciful God is kind to those who are humble and repentant when they have sinned. Why? Because His desire is for our salvation. As we prepare to enter the most holy season of Lent, may the words of Ben Sira motivate us to turn back to Our God and stay there.

Food for your Journey

To return is to repent, as noted above. Many people begin this process by saying, "I'm sorry."

Often, however, it's an empty expression. It's not much better than other such expressions, like: my bad, mistakes were made, oops, excuse me, pardon me and so on.

How does one truly return or repent? It depends, of course, on to whom the offense was given, the magnitude of the offense and the damage caused by the offense.

Generally, a person who is truly sorry understands just what -- exactly -- is needed to make amends. You've hurt your spouse? You know what you need to do, right? You offend God, you also know what needs to be done, including a cessation of the offending behavior.

Whimsical responses to the unfinished statement, "Nothing says 'I'm sorry' like ..." include: chocolate, flowers, a tuna casserole, cash, cupcakes or a Home Depot gift certificate.

What really says "I'm sorry," however, is to stop doing the bad stuff, and begin doing the good stuff.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, help me to be keenly aware of and sorry for the wrong I have done to You and others. Please give me the Grace to change my life. Amen.