



Daily Mass Readings Tuesday, March 31st, 2020

**Readings: NM 21:4-9
Gospel JN 8:21-30**

Reflections from Father Blessing

I am reminded today of a song by Mac Davis which came out in 1980 entitled, 'It's hard to be humble.' I was a junior in high school and it was an instant hit. We all loved it and when it was on the radio, we all chimed in:

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
I can't wait to look in the mirror
Cause I get better looking each day
To know me is to love me
I must be a (bleep, cause we are in church) of a man
Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble
But I'm doin' the best that I can!

If you know the song, it was probably difficult for you to read those lyrics without wanting to sing along. So, why do we like that song so much? I think it is because we want to believe about ourselves that we are perfect in every way. There is an element of truth to it by the way, for we were created in the image and likeness of God and he created us good. In that regard there lies an element of perfection in us.

However the difficulty comes in our ability to sin, which is to choose something that does not reflect the truth of our innate goodness. Just to be clear, there are only two people of which the church identifies who did not succumb to the temptation of sin, Jesus and the Blessed Mother. Although, there is speculation that John the Baptist and maybe even St. Joseph received spiritual perfection and may not have sinned. If you are not one of these people, then sin applies to you. It certainly applies to me.

The challenge that I see the scriptures addressing today is how do we face the fact that we are sinners? How can I have good positive image of myself, when I not only have the capacity to sin, but I also choose it, maybe even more often than I care to admit? If our image of self is determined by what we do, then it will be difficult for us to want to recognize our sin. In the gospel Jesus scolded the Pharisees because they were too proud to recognize their sin. The first reading gives us insight as to how we are healed from sin. That is to look at it square in the face. The serpent represented Israel's sin. They complained against God and the serpents were a result of their sin. In order to heal they had to look at the repercussions of their sin.

Are we willing to look at our sin for what it is? Or do we try to explain it away? If we are going to be healed from sin then we have to see it for what it is and how it is affecting those around us. In yesterday's reading we saw the compassion of Jesus. His love and mercy is there for those who desire it. However, if we are unwilling to do, then the pain of our sin remains and we therefore remain dead in it.

