

10th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Genesis 3:9-15
Ps 130: 1-8
2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Monday June 11 St. Barnabas

Acts 11:21b-26;13:1-3
Ps 98:1-6
Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday June 12

1 Kings 17:7-16
Ps 4:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday June 13 St. Anthony of Padua

1 Kings 18:20-39
Ps 16:1b-2ab,4,5ab,8,11
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday June 14

1 Kings 18:41-46
Ps 65:10-13
Matthew 5:20-26

Friday June 15

1 Kings 19:9a,11-16
Ps 27:7-9,13-14
Matthew 5:27-32

Saturday June 16

1 Kings 19:19-21
Ps 16:1b-2a,5,7-10
Matthew 5:33-37

God will forgive any repentant sinner -- right? No matter what we have done, if we are truly remorseful and desire to be restored to God's grace, the Sacrament of Confession will secure our place in heaven -- right?

Then what is the unforgivable sin named in the Gospel reading? Are we in danger of going to hell because there's an unforgivable sin?

Let's look at the context in which Jesus is describing the unforgivable sin. He's talking about Satan, the strong man who steals (possesses) souls. Note how easy it is to plunder the strong man's property: We simply bind the strong man! ("No one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties him up. Then he can plunder the house.") Jesus will soon be sending out

his disciples to start plundering, i.e., rescuing souls in the name and power of Christ. The sins of the rescued will be forgiven.

Jesus said, "Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." Demons blaspheme the Holy Spirit by being *fully aware* of the truth while *deliberately* lying to us about the goodness of the Holy Spirit, leading us, if they can, away from God. This is unforgivable!

What about humans who believe demonic lies? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (paragraph 1864)

says that anyone who *deliberately* refuses to repent of sin rejects forgiveness: "Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss."



Most people, I believe, who allow demonic lies to influence them simply

don't realize that the truth is better. As the first reading tells us, Adam and Eve sinned because Satan deceived them. Every sinner has been deceived. You and I sin when we believe a deception, and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, helps us overcome every lie. The truth sets us free.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Looking back over your spiritual growth through the years, when did you overcome deceptions about God?
2. What sin are you struggling with today? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a new understanding about it.
3. Name sins that you see commonly embraced in our world today. What truths about God do people fail to understand in each type of sin? If they were to open themselves up to these truths, how would it change their minds and their behaviors?
4. How can we evangelize them about the truth?