

## **Review of Chapter 24 – Sin and Mankind**

- Temptation is the enticement of to sin.
- There are three things that can lead us into temptation:
  - The World, The Flesh, and The Devil
- What are the two types of Sins? Original and Actual.
- What is a Mortal Sin? It's the worst type of sin that separates us from God's grace.
- What are Venial Sin? They are sins which are not serious violations against God or His Holy Laws.
- What are Occasions of Sin? They are places, persons, or things that may easily cause us to sin
- Conscience means ☐ we act of our own intellect to judge what is right and wrong.

## **Chapter 25 God's Mercy & Forgiveness**

- Before Jesus came most of the Jewish people looked at God as merciless judge who found joy in condemning everyone except the most religious and learned people.
- These people forgot about God's mercy.
  - Recall that God's first act towards Adam and Eve was of mercy. He gave them and second chance when He could have condemned them for their disobedience and sin.
- When Jesus came He preached and taught about God's Love and Mercy for us.
- What does Mercy mean anyway? Mercy means that God has love and kindness towards our weak human nature. He understands that our human nature (in a state of sin) is incapable of being righteous.
- In His love for us God became man through the person of Jesus Christ and shared in our human nature.
- Through His act of mercy (taking on a physical human body) God chose to deal with sinners on a human level.
- Recall that Jesus never ignored or treated sinners as outcasts instead he befriended them and treated them with love and mercy.

Examples of this are: Mary Magdalene and Saint Matthew the Apostle (tax collector).
- Jesus came to offer forgiveness, mercy, and salvation!

## **God Loves the Sinner but Hates the Sin**

- Just because Jesus befriended sinners that does not mean that he approved of their sinful ways.
- Jesus loves every person because we were created in the image and likeness of God.
- It is clear from the Bible that Jesus told sinners to repent and sin no more.

## **\*Can we judge the actions of others?**

- Now in today's world we are often told that when we judge the actions of others we are judging the person and making ourselves God since only God has the power to condemn or judge. This especially happens when we take a stand on things like abortion or gay marriage. We are told that we are going against what the Bible teaches about judging others.
- For example people often quote *"Judge not, that you be not judged....."* (Matt 7:1-2)
- When someone makes this argument they are misunderstanding basic Christian theology and are ignoring what the bible says regarding the judgment of truth from error.
- *"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."* (John 7:24)
- While it is absolutely true that we are not to judge or cast condemnation on others for their sins we should and are required by faith to judge truth from error.
- Judging truth from error is not the same thing as condemning someone for their sins. Condemning is left to God.

## **We All Need a Change of Heart**

- We must remember that we will all be judged by God.
- When we go to confession we ask Jesus (through the Priest) for forgiveness. If we are sincere in confession our sins are forgiven.
- When we leave the confessional we should have the attitude of "Go and Sin no more" in our hearts.
- How can we "Go and sin no more"? → We need to have a Change of Heart.

- We must honestly try to good and avoid committing sins even when it seems difficult.
- We must try to see things as Jesus does.
- It helps to spend some time every evening reflecting on day. Go over the 10 commandments.
- By doing this we are practicing what we call an **Examination of Conscience** which helps us identify our sins and reflect on how our sins hurt others.
- When we reflect on our sins and are sorry for them this is called **Contrition**.
- There are two types of **Contrition: Perfect and Imperfect**
  - Perfect Contrition: we are truly sorry for our sins because they offend God who we should love above all things.
  - Imperfect Contrition: we are sorry for our sins because we fear judgment and punishment for them.
- Both types of contrition are suitable for confession, but perfect contrition is the better form of sorrow for our sins.
- **We must always remember that at our death we will face final judgment before God.**
- **We will go directly to Heaven, Purgatory or Hell.**
  - **Heaven** is a place of eternal happiness where we will live for eternity in the presence and glory of God.
  - **Purgatory** is a “place” where most people will go to before they enter into heaven. In purgatory we joyfully suffer and reflect on our sin while our souls are made perfect so we can enter heaven.
    - Why do some people go to purgatory? Not loving God fully. Dying with venial sins or punishment due to mortal sins which were forgiven.
  - **Hell** is a place of eternal damnation for those who have rejected God. Hell is the absence of God and His glory for eternity. Hell is a place of eternal pain and suffering. We don't want to go there! Some of the Saints have described it as a place of eternal fire!

***CLASS VIDEOS: What will we do in Heaven, What is Hell, What is Purgatory – 3MC – DVD #2 – Sanctification/Title's #62, 63, and 64 (10 minutes)***

- After we have considered our sin we must have a firm purpose of amendment → we must strive not commit these sin anymore.
- The best way to change our hearts is to go to confession where we receive forgiveness and God's grace.
- Remember! Mortal Sins require confession, but Venial sins should be confessed as well.

### **Take up Your Cross and Follow Me**

- *"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matt 16:24)*
- We must do this this to.....
- We must deny ourselves our selfish desires and do acts of penance.
  - **Acts of Penance:** fasting, doing good works, doing acts of love, praying, and doing things that are not appealing to us – we do them out of love for God and others.

### **Lesson Review**

1. **How is an examination of conscience made?** By calling to mind the sins we've committed which go against God's commandments.
2. **What is contrition?** It's sorrow and hatred we feel for the sins we've committed.
3. **What is the Purpose of Amendment?** It's the will to not sin again and to avoid occasions of sin.
4. **Should we judge the actions of others?** Yes
5. **Should we judge the person committing the sinful action?** No. This is God's job not ours.

### **Student Questions and Answers Cont.**