

St. Frances Cabrini - Lebanon, TN
Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B
June 10, 2018

Genesis 3:9-15

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

After having children, Adam and Eve started getting a lot of questions from their kids about why they no longer lived in Eden. Adam has a simple answer for this: “Your mother ate us out of house and home.”

We have two themes from today’s reading; Sin and deflection. In our first reading, we have the story of Adam and Eve’s first sin. From sin, both Adam and Eve are hiding. They mention their nakedness. The Hebrew word used did not mean physical nakedness. The term used in the bible had nothing to do with that. Think of this as their guilt being exposed. In their action, they could not hide their guilt from God.

When God approaches them on the sin, neither take responsibility for their action. They both blame someone else, deflect blame on another. Adam blames Eve; Eve blames the serpent. Both seem to forget the fact they had free will to choose. When their choice is shown to be wrong, they blame someone else.

I think we could all agree that sin is wrong, correct. We all can do a good job of identifying other people’s sin. We may on occasion be able to identify our own sins. Have you ever thought of the effect your sinning has on others? I want us to focus on the effect it has on those we can influence. Specifically, children or those from a position we hold.

There was an episode of Andy Griffin that I think will clarify my thoughts. Millennials, you are just going to have to suffer through this,

as you most likely do not have a clue who Andy Griffin is unless you watched this with your grandparents.

Opie is getting ready to trade a toy of his with a friend. The toy is broken. Therefore, Andy has to explain to him why it is wrong to mislead his friend about the condition of the toy.

A very short time later, Andy and Barney are in charge of getting rid of an old, worthless cannon from the town square. The meet and antique dealer in Ellie's drugstore. Andy proceeds to embellish the facts about the cannon. Teddy Roosevelt used this cannon in the charge of San Juan Hill. The crack was from a battle. One thing after another. All the while, Opie is sitting and listening.

Fast forward, Andy catches Opie with a pair of roller skates from his friend, which he traded for, with something broken. Andy is upset trying to explain to Opie what he did was wrong. Each time, Opie referred back to what his dad did with the cannon. Each time Andy stated it wasn't the same or it didn't apply. As you may have figured out, Andy learned couple of lessons. The most important is what Opie learned from his actions.

We have all heard the saying "Do as I say, not as I do". Now that doesn't make any sense whatsoever. We are basically saying it is ok for me to do wrong, not you. Clearly a double standard.

What effect do we have on others? Parents, what effect can we have on our children by our actions? What effect do we have on people we are exposed to who may think we are in a position of authority or influence? If they see us taking things, will they? If they hear us gossiping, will they? If they hear us talk behind peoples back, stirring up trouble, will they?

Jesus' approach was radically different from what the Jews were accustomed to. Jesus led by example. He practiced what he preached. This is why the Jewish leaders were so quick to demean, calling him possessed. This is why his family called him crazy.

Jesus' truthful response can sting. Those who hear and act on the Word of God are my mother, sister, brother. He is inviting all to be members of his family. The invitation is for us too. We must decide do we want to be a part of his family.

Think about Jesus on the cross. We have those mocking Jesus on one side. We have his family, showing love on the other side. Think about which side you are on. Are you mocking people? Are you talking behind their backs? Are you demeaning people, deflecting blame? Or are you loving as Jesus loves? Before we get ready to respond in a demeaning or belittling method, ask yourself the question if the response is for their betterment or yours. Then ask yourself which side of the cross you would be on.