

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 1, 2017

Talk is cheap, it's actions that count." "You have to walk the walk, not just talk the talk." "Actions speak louder than words." These are all truisms that we have heard before.

We find in the gospel today an everyday experience. It's easy to do. To say one thing and do another. To not live up to our word.

You and I have all been hurt by promises given and then broken. Some of us have been given sweet talk and words of love only to later discover that we were, in the name of love, only used. On other occasions we have been given words that have hurt us, really hurt us, not because they were mean and nasty but because we relied on them and were later betrayed.

For the most part, no one wants to hurt anyone else. We want to do good and we want to have positive relationships with one another. However, this desire to do good is often left in the realm of wishful thinking. How often is it that we want to do something good but we just cannot or will not get ourselves onto the next step of putting it into action? What happens then is that people believe in us less, trust is eroded, and there is a general deterioration of the quality of life and happiness.

The first thing is honesty. We must be fearlessly and courageously honest with God and likewise honest with ourselves. Without honesty we are doomed. Without honesty in our business and professional lives we will fail. People will discover we are frauds. Without honesty our love relationships will collapse, our friendships will be lost, and we will end up in a hell on earth as well as in the hereafter. Satan, we must all remember, is the Father of Lies and he wants us to be just like him.

The older son did the essential thing. Christianity is not simply our intellectual assent to a series of doctrines. It is not just our observance of rules and regulations. No. Christianity is a way of living in the truth. Christianity is a matter of living in our professional lives, in our personal relationships with others, and living with God in the truth, all the while being honest with ourselves, all the while being sincere in what we say to others and in how we treat them.

If we are honest with others, honest with ourselves, and honest with God then our actions will automatically follow. We will live lives of sincere integrity and act accordingly; we will live lives in happiness.

I would like to conclude the reflection on the word of God today by turning to the second reading which is one of the most profound and poetic expressions on the life of Christ. Our original sin was the desire to be like God. Adam and Eve ate the apple because the serpent told them that they would then know all things and that they would be like God. We all want to be in control. We all want to be in charge, to have power and authority. On the other hand, the very one that is God, though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.