WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

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"The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good" Luke 6:45

This week's Gospel from Luke 6:39-45 is replete with ancient folk wisdom, easily understood by the Luken Community of the Gentile folk. For instance, "*Can a blind person guide a blind person?*" and "*Why do you see the spec in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?*" and *"No good tree bears bad fruit…*" When these injunctions of spiritual truths pass down from parent to child, generation to generation, they plant within moral behavior of beauty, goodness and truth, enriching the community with the prevailing peace of Christ.

Conversely, when the actions of the parents, community, or religious leaders do not match the goodness of their words, the children lose their identity as Children of God, and that generation suffers much. Moral change is dependent on identity change. If our children do not know they are good people they will not be able to do good deeds, and social order will devolve into chaos. We see this played out in the daily news we hear from the secular culture.

Because we are created in the image of God (*Imago Dei*) there is planted within each of us indwelling grace. When the family and Christian Community instill within our children the love of God that created them in His image we consecrate them to affect everyone's conscience in the sight of God, and grace flows in abundance. As St Paul states in 2 Corinthians 4:4-6:

> *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (Imago Dei). For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,'* ***made his light shine forth from our hearts."***

Therefore, let us consecrate our lives as spiritual teachers to our children. Let these words from St. Paul in our second reading this week be our anthem: *"Be firm, steadfast, always devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1:Cor 15:58*

It would be good to reflect this week on the spiritual teachers and wisdom folk that have influenced you in your spiritual life, those who's light shine out of darkness, who through divine providence were placed in your path to teach you essential truths about living as a person of the light created by Our Father. Recall those spiritual teachers who urged you to be a person ascending the Pilgrim's Way of the Cross, who encouraged you to strive daily to be that "*person out of the good treasure of the heart [that] produces good."*

GOSPEL Luke 6:39-45 NRSV

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples a parable:

"Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

The Gospel of the Lord.