

Homily Outline for the 25th Sunday of the Year – Cycle A
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
September 20, 2020

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- I. Last week's Scriptures were about *forgiveness* (Sir 27:30-28:7; Mt 18:21-35); our readings today (Is 55:6-9); continue to develop the theme of *forgiveness*.
 - A. In the Gospel parable today, Jesus gives the example of the employer who is generous to his employees.
 - B. But generous in what way?
 1. Our first impression is that Jesus is talking about being generous with our money.
 2. The parables, however, are not basically moral instructions for how to conduct our lives, but are intended to tell us something about God.
 3. Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah makes this clear: God "is generous in forgiving."
- II. Last week I used the theme of forgiveness to talk about the Sacrament of Reconciliation; I would like to develop that theme some more as well.
 - A. I encouraged people to go to confession.
 - B. I understand that some people may be hesitant for a variety of reasons.
 1. Following up today by talking about avoiding the near occasion of sin.
 2. Perhaps they are not been to confession for awhile and are afraid of what the priest will think.
 - a) I assure you the priest will be happy that you have come to confession, even if it has been many years.
 - b) I might ask why the person has been away for so long, but that is not intended to be confrontational, but to elicit some conversation about what may be a deeper spiritual reason more than simple neglect.

3. Someone who has been away for a while may also be unsure of what to do.

a) Again, the priest will be happy to help you.

b) The steps are very simple:

i) First, we should want to go to confession to have our sin's forgiven; Mom's example.

ii) Make an examination of conscience; they can be found online, e.g., USCCB, EWTN, etc., using 10 commandments, seven deadly sins.

iii) The priest may welcome you with a blessing, or you may start by asking for a blessing: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned."

iv) Say how long it has been since your last confession.

v) Confess your sins; be specific: number and kind of sins.

vi) Make an act of contrition: different formulas, or use you own words, e.g., "I am sorry for my sins and I resolve not to commit them again."

vii) The priest gives you absolution.

C. Avoiding the near occasions of sin.

1. Just as we are taking precautions against a contagious disease by keeping safe distancing, we should distance ourselves from sin.

2. Sin is highly contagious, e.g., Adam and Eve; we call that scandal.

III. With our sins forgiven, we stay close to Christ through His gift of the Eucharist.

IV. May God give us this grace. Amen.