

There is Still Time

Homily for August 24, 2025

Once the devils were holding a conference on how to destroy the world quickly but easily. Finally, there was a stir in the assembly, and all eyes turned to Anger, who stood up to speak. “Let me go and destroy the world,” he said. “I will turn brother against brother. I will make men get angry with each other, and they will destroy themselves.” But the leader of the devils was not satisfied.

Lust stood up to speak next, saying he would make love disappear and people would turn into beasts. But still, it did not satisfy their leader. Greed, Gluttony, Drunkenness, and others stood to explain what they would do, but the leader was not satisfied. Finally, the Devils’ assistant spoke up. He said, “I shall talk to people persuasively in terms of all that God wants them to be, honest, clean, and brave. I shall encourage them in the good purpose of their life.”

The leader was surprised by what his assistant said. But the assistant kept talking; “However, I shall tell them there is no rush, they can do all of those things tomorrow. I shall advise them to wait until conditions are more favorable before they begin.” The leader of the devil was pleased. He said, “You are one who shall go on the earth to destroy the people.” Wisdom stories; J. Maurus.

In today’s Gospel, we hear someone ask Jesus, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” When Adam and Eve sinned, we lost the glory of heaven, and God sent His Only Begotten Son to come and save us. By His death, we are all saved, and through the sacrament of baptism, we are cleansed of our sins. Now and then, we fall into sin, and we are cleansed again through the sacrament of reconciliation.

It is not enough to say Jesus died for us and we are saved. Salvation is an ongoing process, and we must play our part. The devil is so deceiving and tells us there’s still time. Our lives as Christians are like a competition. It’s not that we compete with each other for a prize like in sports, but we compete against ourselves—confronting things the devil says are okay: laziness, pride, self-centeredness, love of comfort, pleasure, or possessions, envy; not to mention the sinful attractions of the world. Life is a battlefield, and our Lord wants us to understand this to avoid the trap of not taking our faith seriously. “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Eph.6:11-13.