



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

October 3, 2021

Men, Women, and God's Creative Plan

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

On the Sistine Chapel's ceiling, inspired by a passage from today's first reading, Michelangelo painted the moment when God creates woman out of the side of man. He depicts her standing beside the slumbering Adam, almost arguing with God. It may represent the eternal discussion about the relationship of man and woman. Or perhaps it recalls the scene of a man asleep on the sofa while the woman wonders, "What's wrong with him?" Happily, Eve asks the one with the answer: God.

Sunday Readings

Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.

Hebrews 2:9-11

He who "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

[Jesus said,] "But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female....So they are no longer two but one flesh."

In fact, Jesus does the same thing in Mark's Gospel. When the Pharisees question him on divorce, Jesus refers them to God's original plan: "But from the beginning of creation..." (10:6). Jesus finds the answer to this challenging question by looking back at God's creative plan for humanity. God has given man and woman to one another as a mutual gift. It is not good that man should be alone, but only God in eternity definitively satisfies the original loneliness found in everyone's heart.

When spousal love breaks down, we would be wise to follow Jesus' advice and refer to God's original plan. Saint John Paul II did that when, in contemplating married love, he dedicated the first years of his Wednesday audiences to reflect on the first three chapters of Genesis.

Those God has placed alongside us, especially our spouses, are meant to wonderfully (but only partially) satisfy that deep longing to be totally accompanied. Mutual self-giving and self-sacrifice in love is the solution to our inherent isolation and loneliness. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

In the first reading we also hear that God was pained by Adam's loneliness....God did not create us to live in sorrow or to be alone. He made men and women for happiness, to share their journey with someone who complements them, to live the wondrous experience of love.

Homily, October 4, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I look for others to satisfy a part of me that only God can satisfy?
- Do I celebrate all the good things my spouse or loved ones offer me? Do I thank them?

Hard Choices

By Kathleen M. Basi

Faith and politics—are there any two words in the English language that are more fraught with the potential to divide?

In the United States last year, we went through a heartbreakingly ugly presidential primary and convention season, only to be thrust into an equally disgusting general-election fight that extended into the post-election—more than a year in which the *modus operandi* seems to be: “Say whatever you want, whether it’s true or not, because all things are justifiable in the pursuit of winning.”

When faith intersects with politics, we are faced with hard choices. No party, no candidate, represents the totality of the Catholic faith. No party holds a moral high ground; the bending of truths and the oversimplification of issues is a near-universal characteristic of political rhetoric, and all party platforms contain positions that are inconsistent with the teachings of Christ.

Candidates often tell us we stand at a point of no return—that if we don’t get the “right” result, our country is lost. And for this reason, we tolerate the behaviors, the shredding of opponents’ human dignity, the dishonesty, and the trash talking that stand diametrically opposed to the Ten Commandments. Even worse, we participate in them.

Most of us don’t want to own our guilt. We’d rather blame the system. If we take an honest look in the mirror, though, almost all of us are part of the



problem. Too often, the tone of our comments on social media and in our safe zones, among those who think like we do, mirrors the un-Christlike ugliness exhibited in direct mail, TV ads, and speeches. We fail to hold our candidates—even the ones we know personally—accountable for the tenor of the discussion. Then, too, there are the articles and editorials we choose to share. It’s easy to hide behind them, to let an author take the blame and refuse the responsibility we incur by spreading his or her influence.

The truth is, there is no one “point of no return.” We face crossroads every day, every election season, and in every conversation about social, economic,

and governmental affairs. At each one, we make a choice to put our faith in the driver’s seat—or to make a particular political party, candidate, or issue our god.

In future elections, we, as individual followers of Christ, must decide whether to condone the false absolutes, the polarization, and the dehumanization that have come to characterize our political process, or to hold ourselves and all our leaders accountable to the standard set by Jesus.

We all have a choice to make. What will you choose? +

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PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for childlike innocence. Help me to be more aware of and responsive to the needs of little children.

From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 4–9

Monday, St. Francis of Assisi:
Jon 1:1–2:2 / Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday, Weekday:
Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday, Weekday:
Jon 4:1–11 / Lk 11:1–4

Thursday, Our Lady of the Rosary:
Mal 3:13–20b / Lk 11:5–13

Friday, Weekday:
Jl 1:13–15; 2:1–2 / Lk 11:15–26

Saturday, Weekday:
Jl 4:12–21 / Lk 11:27–28

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