

## **DAILY READINGS**

Monday, June 10, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 9:18-23** – Consequently, He has mercy upon whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills. You will say to me, then, “Why [then] does He still find fault? For who can oppose His will?” But who indeed are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Will what is made say to its maker, “Why have You created me so?” Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for a noble purpose and another for an ignoble one? What if God, wishing to show His wrath and make known His power, has endured with much patience the vessels of wrath made for destruction? This was to make known the riches of His glory to the vessels of mercy, which He has prepared previously for glory, namely, us whom He has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles. As indeed He says in Hosea:

“Those who were not My people I will call ‘my people,’  
and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”  
And in the very place where it was said to  
them, “You are not My people,”  
there they shall be called children of the living God.”

And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “Though the number of the Israelites were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant will be saved; for decisively and quickly will the Lord execute sentence upon the earth.” And as Isaiah predicted:

“Unless the Lord of hosts had left us  
descendants,  
we would have become like Sodom  
and have been made like Gomorrah.”

What then shall we say? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have achieved it, that is, righteousness that comes from faith; but that Israel, who pursued the law of righteousness, did not attain to that law? Why not? Because they did it not by faith, but as if it could be done by works. They stumbled over the stone that causes stumbling, as it is written:

“Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion  
that will make people stumble  
and a rock that will make them fall,  
and whoever believes in Him shall not be put  
to shame.”

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15** – When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to Him with this question, “Are You the One Who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and

see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at Me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way before you.’

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

**Epistle: Acts 11:19-30** – Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose because of Stephen went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but Jews. There were some Cypriots and Cyrenians among them, however, who came to Antioch and began to speak to the Greeks, as well, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas [to go] to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. At that time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch, and one of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine all over the world, and it happened under Claudius. So the disciples determined that, according to ability, each should send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea. This they did, sending it to the presbyters in care of Barnabas and Saul.

**Gospel: Luke 10:16-22** – “Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. And whoever rejects Me rejects the One Who sent Me.” The seventy [-two] returned rejoicing, and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of Your Name.” Jesus said, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been Your gracious Will.”

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**Epistle: Roman 11:2-12** - God has not rejected his people whom He foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." But what is God's response to him? "I have left for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt to Baal." So also at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. But if by grace, it is no longer because of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. What then? What Israel was seeking it did not attain, but the elect attained it; the rest were hardened, as it is written:

"God gave them a spirit of deep sleep,  
eyes that should not see  
and ears that should not hear,  
down to this very day."

And David says:

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,  
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;  
let their eyes grow dim so that they may not see,  
and keep their backs bent forever."

Hence I ask, did they stumble so as to fall? Of course not! But through their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make them jealous. Now if their transgression is enrichment for the world, and if their diminished number is enrichment for the Gentiles, how much more their full number.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:20-26** – Then He began to reproach the towns where most of His mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum:

'Will you be exalted to heaven?  
You will go down to the netherworld.'

For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned You have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been Your gracious Will.

Thursday, June 13, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 11:13-24** – Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? If the firstfruits are holy, so is the the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place and have come to share in the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. If you do boast, consider that you do not support the root; the root supports you. Indeed you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in. That is so. They were broken off because of unbelief, but you are there because of faith. So do not become haughty, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, [perhaps] He will not spare you either. See, then, the kindness and severity of God; severity toward those who fell, but God’s kindness to you, provided you remain in His kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated one, how much more will they who belong to it by nature be grafted back into their own olive tree.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:27-30** – “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My Yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For My Yoke is easy, and My Burden light.”

Friday, June 14, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 11:25-36** – I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not become wise [in] your own estimation: a hardening has come upon Israel in part, until the full number of the Gentiles comes in, and thus all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The deliverer will come out of Zion,  
he will turn away godlessness from Jacob;  
and this is my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins.”

In respect to the gospel, they are enemies on your account, but in respect to election, they are beloved because of the patriarchs. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may [now] receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that He might have mercy upon all.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgments and how unsearchable His ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
or who has been His counselor?”  
“Or who has given Him anything  
that He may be repaid?”

For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

**Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8** – At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “See, Your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Saturday, June 15, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 6:11-17** – Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as [being] dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, sin must not reign over your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires. And do not present the parts of your bodies to sin as weapons for wickedness, but present yourselves to God as raised from the dead to life and the parts of your bodies to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Of course not! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted.

**Gospel: Matthew 8:14-23** – Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him.

When it was evening, they brought Him many who were possessed by demons, and He drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick, to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet:

“He took away our infirmities  
and bore our diseases.”

When Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus answered him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest His Head.” Another of [His] disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.” But Jesus answered him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their dead.” He got into a boat and His disciples followed Him.

Sunday, June 16, 2013

**Epistle: Romans 6:18-23** – Freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your nature. For just as you presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness for lawlessness, so now present them as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. But what profit did you get then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit that you have leads to sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13** – When He entered Capernaum, a centurion approached Him and appealed to Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have You enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Com here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those following Him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” And Jesus said to the centurion, “You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.” And at that very hour [his] servant was healed.

All Readings taken from *The New American Bible for Catholics*