



Twenty-Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time

God speaks to the prophet Ezekiel and reveals that he is responsible to announce God's Word to everyone. In speaking to someone who is wicked, the prophet warns of God's judgment. Each person is accountable to God once His message has been given. The prophet saves himself by being faithful to this command.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans reveals that the whole Law and all the prophets can be summed up in this; "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Because love never harms our neighbor, it by its own nature fulfills the Law. Paul points out that fulfillment of the Law saves us.

Jesus, in the 18th chapter of Matthew's gospel instructs His disciples on how to resolve differences and point out the fault in another. When we are wronged by someone, we are called to discuss with them the matter in private. If we are successful in convincing the other of the fault they committed and sees the error of their ways, then we have accomplished the goal. In those instances when he or she will listen then another should be included in order that the case may stand on the word of more than one person. Beyond this, one refers the matter to the Church which has been given the power by Christ Himself to forgive sin or hold bound sin. Finally, Jesus assures the disciples that praying in common for anything will in God's plan be granted. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."

You and I as disciples can both learn from these lessons and be encouraged by them. God is listening when we call and our goal is to love one another. Love conquers everything because it comes directly from God Himself.

Peace,

Fr. Robert