



11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

2 Sam 12:7-10, 13
Ps 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11
Gal 2:16, 19-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

Monday June 14

1 Kings 21:1-16
Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-7
Matt 5:38-42

Tuesday June 15

1 Kings 21:17-29
Ps 51:3-6ab, 11, 16
Matt 5:43-48

Wednesday June 16

1 Kings 2:1, 6-14
Ps 31:20-21, 24
Matt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday June 17

Sirach 48:1-14
Ps 97:1-7
Matt 6:7-15

Friday June 18

2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20
Ps 132:11-14, 17-18
Matt 6:19-23

Saturday June 19

2 Chron 24:17-25
Ps 89:4-5, 29-34
Matt 6:24-34

Have you ever thought about how sins are forgiven? How do we go from sinful to justified?

Think of the word "justified" as "made to be just and fair". Because we have sometimes been unjust in our dealings with others, Jesus, the Perfectly Just One, died for our sins to take us out of our sins to the cross. The injustices died with him there.

Justice is a legal word. But as this Sunday's second reading points out, it's not the law that forgives us; we're not justified (i.e., we don't become fair, loving and just) by the law but through faith in Christ, "for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing."

Jesus explains it in the Gospel reading. The sinful woman

who bathed Jesus with her tears was forgiven, changed and justified through her great love for him. Love is what breaks us away from the power of sin. Love is what makes us behave justly.

Any of us who genuinely want to be loving but sin anyway are usually unaware, at that moment, that our behavior is hurting anyone. We don't sin out of deliberate malice, yet we have behaved unjustly.

We sin because we take our eyes off of Jesus. We're reacting to current or past stimuli that's tempting us to behave unjustly. But if we pause long enough to pray

and reconnect to Jesus, we can take control. We can choose to act in love.

When we make love our highest priority, temptations lose their power. Caring about others distracts us from the stimuli that causes our sinful reactions. And as soon as we discover that we've caused pain through sin, we're motivated by love to undo the damage as best as we can. We enter into the justice of God.

When we love others as Jesus loves them, our faith has become our salvation. As it was for the woman in the Gospel, Jesus says to us: "Now you can go in peace."

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Recall an unloving behavior or attitude you had recently. What were you reacting to?
2. Dig deeper. What's the root of that reaction? For example: Did anyone hurt you the same way? Forgive him/her. Are you afraid? Trust God instead. If necessary, talk to a spiritual director or psychological counselor to help you identify the root cause. The truth will set you free to love as Jesus loves!
3. Tell the story of a sin you overcame more than a year ago. What did you do to overcome its control of you?
4. How did the love of Jesus empower you?

