

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. M. BOSSAERT

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GOD'S JUSTICE TOWARDS SINNERS

We read in today's Gospel that our divine Redeemer wept over Jerusalem, that unhappy city, so hardened in sin, because He foresaw its terrible destiny. His tears bear witness to His divine justice, and they were shed also for every sinner who refuses to listen to God's warnings and admonitions...

1. God is merciful;—this is stated on almost every page of Holy Scripture. His mercy embraces heaven and earth, and includes even the most hardened sinners...

2. We must not be astonished if God's justice constrains Him to punish hardened sinners; for if He invariably showed mercy and never inflicted punishment, He would wrong the good who suffer much at the hands of the wicked...

3. We must never presumptuously rely upon God's mercy when doing so involves a violation of His justice. Men are very prone to presumption of this kind...

How sweet it will be to die after having had devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus...

Do not believe that your friends are nature to you because they do not agree with you in all things.

THE SACRED HEART AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

When we think of the Divine Heart we turn instinctively to the altar whereon Jesus lives in His Most Holy Sacrament. The Most Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart devotion are so closely allied as to be inseparable.

If our faith did not enlighten us, we should believe in the mystery of the Incarnation, the Passion, the Crucifixion? That the Eternal God should take on Himself the form of a human creature...

2. We must not be astonished if God's justice constrains Him to punish hardened sinners; for if He invariably showed mercy and never inflicted punishment, He would wrong the good who suffer much at the hands of the wicked...

It might well be conceived that in response to this infinite re-descension of Our Divine Lord in remaining constantly as a prisoner in the tabernacle, in permitting Himself to be given in Holy Communion, and exposed at times for adoration...

If we have ever done a favor for another and have been repaid by unthankfulness or perhaps by injury, we know what a sting it has left in our soul.

SUFFERED TERRIBLE AGONY

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tions to Blessed Margaret Mary, Jesus asks for reparation and atonement for all the injuries, insults, coldness and indifference He has experienced in all the centuries of His silent imprisonment in the tabernacle.

GOD'S HOLINESS AND JUSTICE

Between holiness and justice there can be drawn no sharp line of demarcation. Justice is a comprehensive term and is used often to signify the sum of all the virtues.

In God, holiness, as we should naturally expect, is something entirely different from the same quality in His creatures. God is holy of Himself, while His creatures derive whatever measures of sanctity they may have from Him through their own efforts.

When we say that God is holy, we consider Him as existing free from all moral evil. It is impossible for Him to do any wrong.

Almighty, Who was, and who is, and who is to come. They do not extol His supremacy, His power, His majesty. With joy, they sing His praises because of His infinite glory, His infinite goodness, His infinite holiness.

As His creatures He loves us, and He calls us to Him. But in order to be acceptable in His sight we must be holy. It is His Holy Will that we should one day join the choir of angels and enjoy with them the happiness of living forever in His presence.

GOD IS JUST

He is then a just God. Who renders to each one according to his works. He shows His love of good and hatred of evil by rewarding those who do good and punishing those who persevere in the opposite course.

This is the thought that will stand us in good stead when the dark days come upon us, those days that sooner or later enter into the lives of all of us.

The life of a great people is both inward and outward. It is a life of the spirit, and it is a life of action; and the greatness of a race is determined by the depth and volume of its life in the spirit and the adequacy of its action to express that life.

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faults and the aspirations of the people. There is also in the same race a power of action, an executive ability, a skill in doing; and the real national problem is the co-ordination of those two sides of life; the side of ideas and the side of action.

Like Sam and Japhet cover the faults of others, rather than point to them like Cham.



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If you wish to be loved by Jesus, become humble and gentle like Him.—Blessed Margaret Mary. Little by little slight dialikes grow into animosities and eat away the vitals of friendship.

For Your Convenience

THE saving of the extra steps and extra motions has been shown to be a big thing in the business world. Efficiency engineers at fancy salaries have been hired to study the most convenient ways of getting work done.

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CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE SOUL'S DESIRE
Let me but live my life from year to year.
With forward face and unreluctant soul;

THE ART OF REPROVING

When we speak a word of admonishment or reproof, it should be spoken in the right spirit, and manner.

SELF RELIANCE

If possible find something to do without depending upon others. Anything, anything is to be doing, if it only keeps soul and body together for a while.

THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Science as it is today is arrayed against Revelation. To go forth into this unbelieving world as the defenders of Christ's Revelation without a hand of knowledge, and without being able to use it with tongue and pen, were a crime.

THE BIG IDEA

A man is not a success in life till a dominant purpose takes hold of him, to which all other procedures and measures and all the powers of his being are subordinated.

It is so easy to drift with the crowd, to accept what each day brings, to throw the sop of complacency to conscience, to admit that circumstances have mastered us.

But if we give room and chance to the same driving impulse, life is no longer the same. As it is in life it is in the world of business.

A life is transformed when it has found the spur, the incentive that it needs. A man who dawdled and was indifferent wakes up; he fairly comes to life.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE IMMORTAL BOOK

We search the world for truth; we cull The good, the pure, the beautiful, From gravestones and written scrolls.

THE GOAL

His name was Art Shea. He knew that much about himself. He knew also that he once had a kind mother and that he lived in a house surrounded by velvety lawns where it was fun to play.

How he came to such a pass was all a blank to Art Shea. He had learned to sell papers, to live on a few pennies' worth of food from a cheap lunch counter, to sleep in any convenient shelter he could discover.

One day, it was springtime in the country, Art's work was over for an hour or so and he crawled into a box car and snuggled up for a little rest. The youngster must have been awfully tired for the car in which he lay asleep was put into a long line of empty freights and hurried westwards.

It seemed an age, but it was only a few minutes before the train began to slow up, the brakes hissed on, and Art was able to drop from the car and look about him.

One or two houses and a grain elevator some distance up the track was all the signs of life he could discover. Perhaps there was a town on the other side of the track, he would crawl between the cars and try the other side. Just then the train gave a jerk and began to move.

But Art had fought his way on in life before this, so now he would try again. A slight boyish figure he was as he leaped up the track towards the station.

"Hello, youngster, where did you come from?" sang out a great bearded westerner as Art reached the station platform.

"From the train that just pulled out, I came," began Art half timidly.

Then the whole story came out. The stranger became interested, forgot all about the goods he had come to bring over to his store.

"I'll tell you what Art, the city isn't a good place anyway. What do you say to living right here in Sheldon. You can help around the store and my folks can find room for one more."

The offer sounded like a business proposition and Joe Burns meant it so. He saw that the little fellow was used to business and he spoke as man to man.

Art thought for a moment, recollected his friends of the railroad yards and then looked about him. Sheldon was only a handful of houses and—, but the great sweet smelling country appealed to him, he never knew that the world was so large and bright.

"Please sir, thank you—I—I— would be glad to stay with you." The offer was accepted, the contract closed, Art Shea had a home. It is hardly worth while to tell of the following days. Art found a mother in Mrs. Burns and his quick, ready feet were on the go to try and repay his new-found friends.

The most interesting thing to Art, however, was the mysteries of the country. Everything was new to him. He had dropped into another, beautiful world. The horses, chickens, crops, the wild flowers and above all the great sweeping prairie, all were wonders of delight to the town boy.

The Burns' family were Catholics, but there was no church near Sheldon where they could hear Mass and they depended on the occasional visits from Father Shea, who lived nearly thirty miles away, over in Blackstone.

I'm glad to see you, Mr. Burns. How's the family, Nellie, Jim, Joe, all of them and first of course, the good wife, how is she? But—hello, who is this?" as Art came into the store.

"I am working for Mr. Burns. I came from Omaha and Mr. Burns told me I could stay."

"And your name, my boy?" "Art Shea, sir."

"Shas, why that's my name, maybe we are relations." The priest broke into a hearty laugh but continued more seriously.

"I had a brother living in Kansas City but about three years ago. I lost all trace of him. Our correspondence was poorly kept up even before that, I suspect he was rather negligent of his religion. I wonder if by any chance this little fellow could be his son? No, not likely, but somehow I felt strangely drawn towards the little chap. He even looks like my brother John."

The conversation continued and the outcome was that Father Shea decided to go to Omaha himself and make inquiries; nothing to be said to Art, however, until, perhaps, his relationship was established.

Days slipped into weeks before the busy old missionary got a chance to make the trip. In the meanwhile Art had grown to love his home and also, to be loved by all his new friends.

"Art, I've been to Omaha and have good news; your father was my dear brother John. I'm your uncle, Art."

For a moment the boy stood, scarce comprehending the meaning of what Father Shea said. And then the truth came home. His eyes filled with long pent up tears, he had found his relations and he could lean towards someone.

Art remained for some time with the Burns family; Father Shea had no home, the saddle was his home, and he could not wish a better home than his nephew had.

Father Shea was by no means a young man and the wear and tear of a missionary's life had well nigh worn him out. A severe attack of illness came and when he was on his feet again Father Shea was no longer strong enough to use the saddle or even to drive.

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"Art, would you be willing to give up your good home and help me? I am too weak to get around alone any more."

"Sure Father, that will be just great: I'll be with you the whole time then, won't I?"

It was early spring once more, the last snow had vanished, but the great spring rains were holding away. Art and his uncle had arrived at Sheldon and were stopping with the Burns family.

A rider splashed into Sheldon through the terrible mud and came at once to the Burns home.

"Father, Mrs. Holmes is dying, she has begged to see you," the man explained his errand but when he saw the weak condition the priest was in he was sorry he had spoken.

Mr. Burns, Art, and a few others who happened to be present tried to dissuade Father Shea from going. It was ten miles; the roads were terrible; he was sick and must die of exposure; he owed it to his flock to stay.

All excuses were vain; Father Shea had heard the trumpet call of duty and he would respond. Sadly Art harnessed the team, helped the Father in and they set out. The roads were at times almost covered with water, a steady rain beat down on them and a piercing wind caused even young Art to tremble with the cold.

At last, however, the journey was made and Father Shea arrived in time to prepare another soul for a happy eternity. Scarcely had Mr. Holmes died than Father Shea took to bed and two days later he died, a martyr to his Master's cause.

Once again Art stood alone in the world. His uncle, whom he had



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