

Homily

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - October 3, 2021

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In Genesis' **first** chapter we are reminded: "**God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.**" And then ... of course ... in the **second** chapter ... Genesis tells us ... that after just a few ... easy to understand ... easy to follow ... instructions ... God turned the good things He had made ... over to humankind ... and the rest, sadly, is history!

In yet another attempt to entrap Jesus ... the Pharisees test him on a fine point of law in Deuteronomy ... where Mosaic Law had allowed a **loophole** ... saying ... that a man may divorce his wife.

Jesus **knew** the law ... but He tells them that there is a **higher** authority than man's law ... **God Himself**. Jesus teaches God's original plan ... beautiful ... simple ... and **uncompromising**: "... from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female ... a man shall ... be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh ... Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.*"

From the beginning ... marriage was ... a state created by God himself ... God's gift to a man and a woman and indeed to humankind itself. He gives them to each other just as they give themselves to each other and ... give themselves to Him. This is the holy and sacred marriage covenant ... husband ... wife ... and God. Marriage is a mutual willingness to assist and support each other in this life and in attaining our ultimate goal ... **eternal salvation** ... and ... cooperating with God in His on-going plan of creation.

Hopefully ... marriage will **begin** with prayerful discernment ... in finding our life's helpmate. I cannot imagine a more important decision in life ... way **too** important to make ... **without** God's help. But our culture says ... **we** know better ... **we** know love when we see it ... what need have **we** of God's help? After all ... we have our **hormones** to guide us!

Hopefully ... as we prayerfully plan our married lives together, we continue to live apart ... in joyful anticipation of sharing the full sacred intimacy of marriage **after** ... making our vows before **God's** minister ... in **God's** house. But our culture says: "why wait?"

... But **how** can we consider the physical act of love sacred if it is old news by the wedding!

Hopefully ... after the wedding ... we will thank God **daily** for this gift ... and recommit ourselves ... to our spouse and to our God ... not to a 50/50 relationship ... but to give **100%** ... all ... the ... time. ... But Our culture shouts” **ME!** I’ve done **my** part in this relationship. The rest is up to **her (or him)!** Can divorce be far away?

Hopefully ... we will be willing partners with God in creation and say as our Lord says: **“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them ... ”.** Hopefully we **will** accept children lovingly. ... Maybe **someday** ... our culture says: **“we’re not ready. ... We can’t afford it. ... Kids would just ruin everything”** ... and **preventing** them is **so** easy? Our marriage will be just **fine** without them. Thanks God ... but **no** thanks!

Hopefully ... God’s gift of marriage and family will be cherished by those to whom it has been granted ... but if not ... divorce is easy ... if it gets a little tough, we can always hit life’s **reset** button ... and start over!

In a few moments we will stand ... eyes downcast ... or raised to heaven ... hands extended, folded or joined in prayer ... each as is their custom and we will say the words: **“... Thy ... will ... be ... done ...”.** Will we then ... a little later ... leave Mass ... advancing **our** will ... and not **His** will? And perhaps ... the **saddest** disregard of His will ... is what Jesus is talking about today.