

Daily Homily
St. Scholastica, Abbess
Memorial
5 Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday
10 February 2021
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Jesus is establishing our moral code. Up until now he has probably seen and witnessed way too much. He is not a sheltered man. He goes wherever there is a need, wherever his help is warranted. He doesn't linger too much in comfortable situations. He seems to always be in unfamiliar territory and getting in the way of sickness and demons and overly authoritarian figures. So he knows and sees and feels it in his own human body the capacity of human nature – what it can be in its fullness and what it can resort to in its depravity.

In this Gospel Jesus declares that we are all off. There is something about us that just isn't right. Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve, things have not been right. Ever since original sin enter into our world, things have not been right. This is why every age and every generation has its subtle and not so subtle wars to wage. As Catholics we don't believe that we are completely deprived and completely lost – as some others do. In Baptism we are released from the power of original sin's hold on our life and we are scrubbed down to our original holiness. However, sin is still a problem for us, there is still something off in us.

Jesus goes to that uncomfortable place to. While it is nice to have him sit with us in some comfortable format, Jesus wants to help our human nature. Jesus wants to raise the bar on our moral code, so that we can live fully alive. So as Jesus addressed the war against the sins of his times, he come to address the war of sin that continues within us. He names it – evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness (thinking you are exempt from right behavior or that you have a license to do whatever you want), envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. Jesus gets into the human mind and heart and into our human behavior and declares if this is you – you're a little or a lot off.

So, don't be superficial with Jesus – yes, consider him a great friend or good guy. However, he's more than that. He's also Savior. He alone is the Savior. No one else can do what he can do. No one. Only Jesus. Jesus alone. As Lent approaches, ask him to go there with you... away from the comfortable and familiar... and into those places where you are a bit off, where sin has had an impact, perhaps made a mark. Let him go there with you... to save you and to set you free.