



10th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME YEAR B – June 10, 2018

The Readings today provide much food for thought. In the first Reading (Genesis 3:9-15) God speaks about what happened to our first parents after they ate the forbidden fruit. You will recall that the devil told them they would be like God. They would be able to decide right from wrong and good from evil for themselves. They would no longer need God to do that.

In our culture today, we find that same temptation - the temptation to become a menu Catholic. Pick the commandments you like and disregard the others. Make your own rules and let others make theirs. Believe in life after death if you want to but you don't have to. If you believe in heaven and hell, that's up to you. You can create whatever you want. You are like God. You can even believe that God does not exist.

Recently it was reported that even Pope Francis no longer believes in heaven or hell. That is not true. He simply said heaven and hell are not "places". They are 'states of being'. That is not a denial of heaven or hell. It means if you are "in heaven", heaven is wherever you are. It is not confined to one "place". It is not on a cloud with your own personal harp. The bottom line is this. Heaven and hell are real. Who said so? Jesus did.

Jesus is not the only one who said so. Read the second reading of today's Mass where you will find a second opinion from St. Paul (2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1). Spoiler alert – he agrees with Jesus.

In the Gospel (Mark 3:20-35) we find a change of focus. Jesus Says, "Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me." If you go on line at loyolapress.com you will find interesting commentaries for children in Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8 and for the whole family as well. Allow me to share with you the Family Commentary.

"Families are places of beginnings. Within our family, we first learn what it means to be part of a community. We share a closeness and experience mutual understanding and support. We learn how to love one another, how to ask for and receive forgiveness, and how to apply all these lessons to the world outside our homes.

As you gather as a family, talk about what makes your family special. Share some of the lessons you have learned together about love, forgiveness, and understanding. Then read today's Gospel, Mark 3:20–35. Jesus wants us to understand that by doing God's will, we are part of a bigger family. Choosing to follow Jesus, being his disciple, means we must treat one another with kindness and mercy. We must become a family. Conclude by asking God to bless your family and to help you do God's will by seeing all his people with the same kind of love and compassion. Pray together the [Lord's Prayer](#) and the [Hail Mary](#)."

You are a member of the family of God. It is God's will that you should spend Eternity with him in heaven. We are brothers and sisters in the family of God. We need not fear the devil. He has no power over us. Your guardian angel will take care of him. Remember the second most often repeated commandment of Jesus, "Stop being afraid!" He means it. Peace!

