

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: 2 Sm 12:7-10, 13 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11 Gal 2:16, 19-21 Lk 7:36 - 8:3 or 7:36-50	11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 13, 2010
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Word:	Remembering Christ's love is sharing life with Him.
Theme:	We share life with Christ when we acknowledge our sinful nature. [Humility]
Promise:	<i>"The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die."</i> (2 Sm 12:13)

Reflection:

Sharing the life of Jesus Christ has two dimensions. One deals with his own relationship with Jesus, who says: ***"Live on in Me, as I do in you. No more than a branch can bear fruit apart from the vine, can you bear fruit apart from Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in Me and I in him will produce abundantly; for apart from Me, you can do nothing."*** (Jn. 15:4-5). We should be aware that this ***"new life we are living is no longer our own but that (of) Christ living in us,"*** (Gal.2: 20). And this awareness can be part of our daily prayer habit from the time we wake up in the morning, to the time we retire at night, further nourished by our frequent reception of the Eucharist and meditation on His word. And daily, we should carry our own cross that Jesus may continue to prune and purify us.

The other dimension is our relationship with others. Being renewed disciples of Christ, we should acknowledge that we are sinners needing Jesus as our savior. St. Paul said, ***"Jesus came into this world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost,"*** (1Tim 1:15).

The Theme for the week is: **We share life with Christ when we acknowledge our sinful nature.** The Gospel shows two responses to our sinful nature. Jesus was invited by a Pharisee named Simon to eat at his house. In those days, there were three ceremonial ways of demonstrating respect for a distinguished Rabbi. The host placed his hand at the guest's shoulders and gave him a kiss of peace. The roads were dusty, so cool water was poured on the guests' feet to cleanse and comfort them. Then a pinch of incense was burned or a drop of attar (perfume) of roses was placed at the guest's head. None of these were done to Jesus. The woman in the story, on the other hand, was a woman of ill-repute, most likely, a prostitute shunned by all. Like all Jewish women, she carried around her neck a small phial (vial, container) of concentrated perfume. This she poured on the head of Jesus. And, with

her tears, she bathed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair. (The Daily Bible Study - Gospel of Luke by William Barclay pages 94-95).

Simon, the Pharisee, was not aware of his own sinful nature. He considered himself righteous in the sight of both God and of man. He had no need of Jesus, or of his forgiveness. So he looked down on the woman – a sinner. On the other hand, the woman was only too aware of her sinfulness. She acknowledges Jesus as her Savior by pouring on him her only possession, an expensive perfume. She showed Jesus honor and respect by cleansing and comforting His feet, by her tears of repentance. Jesus forgave her many sins and she was restored into the family of God. Then she could share Christ with others. In the first reading, David too, acknowledges and repents of his sins. He too received God’s forgiveness and was restored into God’s grace.

In a Christian community like BLD we, the members, should always consider that we are still sinners needing Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When therefore we repent and confess our sins, Jesus will continue to forgive us our sins. So we too, should readily forgive those who sin against us (Mt 18:21-35). For by doing so, we acknowledge our own sinful nature and share the life of Christ with others as we receive the promise of the week: ***“The Lord on His part has forgiven your sin; you shall not die.”*** (2 Sm 12:13)

Suggested Personal Reflection:

1. How do we respond to our sinful nature?
2. How can we share Christ’s forgiveness with others?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

June 14, 2010	1 Kgs 21: 1-16; Ps 5: 2-3, 4-6; Mt 5: 38-42
June 15, 2010	1 Kgs 21: 17-29; Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6, 11, 16; Mt 5: 43-48
June 16, 2010	2 Kgs 2: 1, 6-14; Ps 31: 20, 21, 24; Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18
June 17, 2010	Sir 48: 1-14; Ps 97: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7; Mt 6: 7-15
June 18, 2010	2 Kgs 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20; Ps 132: 11, 12, 13-14, 17-18; Mt 6: 19-23
June 19, 2010	2 Chr 24: 17-25; Ps 89: 4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34; Mt 6: 24-34

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”