

Homily  
Wednesday of Holy Week  
April 5, 2023

Are we good people? Who here is a good person? Raise your hand if you are a good person. Of course, you are! All of us were created Good by God. Don't let anyone tell you different. All of us are good. That doesn't mean we all don't make mistakes sometimes. Sometimes, I mean well, but I still manage to make a mistake. Sometimes, I don't listen very well. Sometimes, I forget to do things I promised I would do. Sometimes, I do things I know I shouldn't do. But, for the most part, like you, I'm a good person.

Who can tell me who Judas was? He was an Apostle. He held the money bag for Jesus. He was the one who betrayed Jesus. He was a sinner.

Who can tell me who Peter was? He was an Apostle. He was the rock on which Jesus built His church. He was the one who denied Jesus. He was a sinner.

A sinner is someone who makes a mistake against God and each other. Sometimes on purpose.

Both Judas and Peter are just like us. How are they like us? In their sinfulness. Just like us, they both made mistakes; they were both sinful.

Here's the difference: when we make a mistake, we have a choice; to own up to the mistake and say that we are sorry, or to turn our head in shame, to not say we are sorry.

When Judas betrayed Jesus, he was ashamed, he regretted doing what he did, but he did not come to Jesus and say he was sorry.

When Peter denied Jesus, he was ashamed, he regretted doing what he did, but he came back to Jesus and said he was sorry.

In both cases, Jesus was right there, ready to forgive. But, Jesus can't forgive us if we don't take responsibility for our mistake and say we are sorry. Jesus can only forgive us if we ask for forgiveness. That's why Jesus said that it was better if Judas had never been born, because without Jesus, without forgiveness, we are lost. And that is why Jesus said to Peter, "feed my sheep." Jesus knew Peter was ashamed and very sorry for denying Him.

That's it; we are going to make mistakes, no doubt about it. No matter how hard we try, we will continue to make mistakes. But Jesus loves us anyway. Jesus is always here, in the Sacrament of Confession and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus is always here to love us and forgive us. We just need to come to Him. He can't help us if we don't turn to Him.

Remember: Jesus loves us more than we can possibly know. He loves us right now, here in this place. He loves us at home. He loves us in school. He loves us when we are playing. He loves us when we are working. And, most importantly, He loves us when we make mistakes. We just need to remember to say, "I'm sorry."