

Homily
Friday of the 29th Week in OT
October 27, 2023

I am a stubborn person. When I was younger, I was dumb and stubborn. Now I'm just stubborn. The dumbness is still there, but I've learned to stubbornly refuse to acknowledge it.

In my stubbornness, I tend to do stupid things that either get me in trouble or cause some sort of grief in my life or the lives of those around me. And for that I am so sorry. Like St. Paul said in the first reading, "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."

Being stubborn isn't in itself a bad thing; it's when I cling to those things that get me in trouble, stubbornly, that tend toward bad results. There is a balance I need to find that begins with Jesus. St. Paul thanks God and embraces Jesus to deliver himself from his mortal body. That is what surrender is: we cling to Jesus; we lean on Him. I need let go of my own stupid tendencies and embrace Jesus.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells us what we already know, that we just need to look around ourselves and see what is clearly in front of our eyes. Doing what is evil, clinging to those earthly habits, stubbornly, will lead us to a place we don't want to go.

"Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?" We know what we need to do, we just don't always do it. And in Jesus, we have consolation, we have an 'out.' Jesus knows we all struggle with sin. That is why He came to us as our Brother; He wants what is best for us, even if we don't sometimes. He craves to be with us; yet we still stubbornly go our own way.

When we seem to be lost, struggling to get back on our feet, we have Jesus ready to pick us up. He gives us the Sacraments to heal us, strengthen us, and bring us back to Him. We have the Sacrament of Reconciliation to remove those sins we stubbornly commit. We have the Sacrament of the Eucharist we are about to receive, so that we will be one with Him and one with each other. We surrender to Him, accepting His love and mercy. We humbly ask for help through the saints, especially His Mother and ours. We recognize our stubbornness and let go of those things we don't want to do, and instead do what we know we ought to do.

I will always be stubborn. It is only through Jesus, Who heals me and strengthens me, that I can stubbornly and humbly do what I know I need to do. We look outside ourselves, shedding our selfish tendencies and recognizing the good we need to do, so that one day we can stand before Jesus and hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."