

Scripture Reflection

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Hello Friends of St. Francis,
Enjoy the following Gospel reading and reflection.
May God bless you with confidence!

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A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 10:2-16:

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,
“Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?”
They were testing him.
He said to them in reply, “What did Moses command you?”
They replied,
“Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce
and dismiss her.”
But Jesus told them,
“Because of the hardness of your hearts
he wrote you this commandment.
But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.
So they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
no human being must separate.”
In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.
He said to them,
“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her;
and if she divorces her husband and marries another,
she commits adultery.”
And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them,
but the disciples rebuked them.
When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,
“Let the children come to me;
do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these.
Amen, I say to you,
whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child
will not enter it.”

Then he embraced them and blessed them,
placing his hands on them.

REFLECTION:

“Nobody cares.” vs. “I care.”

When locked up in solitary confinement a prisoner rapidly begins to think that “Nobody cares.” In today’s world, even with all of its freedoms, strangely we find ourselves sometimes reaching this same conclusion. We begin to think that we don’t really matter, at least not very much. The spotlight is on all kinds of different things about us, career, clothes, résumé, talents, but we feel lonely and ignored.

By overvaluing those good things in the spotlight, we can end up undervaluing the most important thing, our very self that resides beneath all the stuff and all the to-do list items. And when that happens, we also start to undervalue other persons, other selves – and become willing to dispose of people, including human embryos.

In contrast Jesus taught that what matters most is, precisely, ourselves – our personhood, body and soul.

The LORD God said: “It is not good for the man to be alone. ...” The Lord God has given each one of us a “suitable partner” – one who always says, “I care” – one with whom we can truly love and be loved. Our God promises us that we are never abandoned, and, that we will not be left orphaned, that our God is with us always to the end of time.

We might try to love those other good things: career, clothes, résumé, talents, and/or bank accounts, but those are not the suitable one. In the Gospel we hear the question, “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” (Mark 10:2-16) Today we might ask the same question, or perhaps a slightly different question, “Shall we become willing to dispose of people?”

Jesus responds with, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” (Mark 10:2-16)

The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything;
they just make the best of everything they have.
And, they see God truly present in all ...

Let us see with those eyes of faith and have confidence that our God, our Suitable Partner, is always with us, sustaining our joy, peace, patience, courage, and kindness.

Human dignity is about what people are – human-beings.