

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 4: 12-23; (R1) Is. 8: 23-9: 3; (R2) 1 Cor. 1: 10-13, 17.

The theme of Sunday's liturgy is, definitely that of light and darkness.

The first reading expresses

Isaiah's hope for Galilee. The destruction of Israel began in Galilee. In 732 B.C. the Assyrian Tiglath Pileser III ravaged the region around Galilee and deported its inhabitants. Isaiah responded in a prophecy of consolation for Galilee. One day, in that land, Isaiah foretold, a great light would shine. The Gospel reveals that the light is Christ. He would bring great joy, as at the harvest, for He would take away the sins that caused the darkness of gloom and death.

Sacred Scripture expresses sin in two ways: in lists of "thou shalt not" and in imagery. In the past people tended to think of sin only in terms of "thou shalt not" — of doing no-no actions. "Don't do that again." "Don't steal." "Stop that." "Keep out." When morality is reduced to only no-no actions, it really doesn't get to the heart of sin. Actions are external, observable; they don't necessarily

reach the heart. They say what people do, not necessarily what they are.

To get to the heart of sin, therefore, Sacred Scripture in addition to a list of no-no actions (the ten commandments) uses vivid imagery. Scripture compares sin to leprosy, blindness, hardness of heart, following crooked ways, or walking in darkness (R1). These images hint at the inner meaning of sin, for they describe a state of being rather than a series of acts. Acts generally result from the state one is in. Thus if one is walking in darkness, all kinds of evil actions can happen. In the dark, one can lose his way, and so on.

In regard to sin, therefore, the "new morality" shifts the emphasis from a legal concept of sin, as doing no-no actions, to a more personal understanding of sin, as being a no-no person. It wants us

to see sin more than a breaking of a law (for law is impersonal and does not touch motives). It wants us to see sin for what it really is: the breaking of persons or the refusal to grow, to respond to others, to become a total person (which is God's will in our regard). Images of darkness and blindness, as used in Scripture, help us to see sin more as a state of being and not just as a series of doing-wrong acts.

Confession today is often neglected precisely because the examination of conscience is still made in the light of a check-list against the ten commandments. We would see the need for frequent confession once we began to view our lives not so much in relation to ten laws as in relation to persons around us and to a loving God above us.

The good life is not just keeping laws, but being good

toward others and the Other. Do we respond? Or how do we respond? "I'm too busy." "I've got other plans." "Don't go with him!" "It's either my way or no way." Am I such a no-no person?

Once we reflect that we have living responsibilities toward others — our family, parish, neighborhood, business, and so on; once we realize that at baptism we have taken on a whole new life-style, as one does who gets married, so that we are responsible to become the children of God that we are and to lead others to Him — then we'll begin to see the need of frequent confession. It will help scatter the darkness — that state of not being able to see that there is more to life than ourselves.

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

White Haven Memorial Park

210 MARSH ROAD PITTSFORD, N.Y. 14534



When should you choose your family burial place?

SOME HAVE ASKED THEMSELVES THIS QUESTION. SOME HAVE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT. ALL WILL HAVE TO ANSWER IT SOMETIME. JUST AS DEATH IS INVITABLE SO IS THE NEED FOR BURIAL FACILITIES. IF YOU SHOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER NOW, THINK HOW DIFFICULT IT WILL BE ON A DAY WHEN THE DECISION CAN NO LONGER BE POSTPONED.

- 1. **CHOOSING A FAMILY BURIAL PLACE IS INEVITABLE.** It can be done when there is a death — a time of sorrow and confusion — or it can be done NOW, thoughtfully and at your own convenience.
- 2. **SOMEONE MUST DO IT.** Unless it is a planned decision now, your family may have to depend on the judgment of a friend, or even a stranger, to select in haste and hope he will not disappoint those who will be the most frequent visitors.
- 3. **DEATH IS A TIME OF STRESS.** Many things must be done quickly with little time to think them through. Selecting your burial place is one of the few that can be done in advance to relieve future strain.
- 4. **DEATH IS A TIME OF EXPENSE** — a strain on finances often needed for family re-adjustment. Selecting now can relieve a financial problem later when such problems are a real burden.
- 5. **WHAT DO YOU WISH TO PAY?** You can decide that easily now — not so easily later. Whoever makes the decision at time of death is likely to be guided by emotion rather than prudence.
- 6. **HOW DO YOU WISH TO PAY?** You can purchase it as you please — in one payment or over a period of time, without interest or finance charges.
- 7. **WHAT YOU DON'T CHOOSE NOW WILL NEVER COST YOU LESS.** If history is any teacher, the same selection later will be more expensive and the same expense later may require considerably further to travel to newly developed outlying locations.
- 8. **YOUR FAMILY BURIAL PLACE WILL BE VISITED OFTEN.** It can be a place of peace and prayer suited to your family's tastes. If you want it to be that, it may be hard to achieve at the time of death, when the weather and the season can make judgement difficult.
- 9. **DO YOU CARE WHERE YOU ARE BURIED?** If you don't, someone very likely does, and that someone must decide in haste without your help. Experience shows that it is usually the woman rather than the man who must do it.
- 10. **WILL YOU WANT . . . REGULAR OR MAUSOLEUM BURIAL.** Since the cost is about the same this is a decision that can be made now and avoid the confusion surrounding a death.

To help you plan your family burial needs and to assist you when death occurs we have a booklet "Let's Face It Now" which can be used as a guide to the many things to be done at the time of death. It explains how to select a site, how to settle accounts, how to make arrangements for the funeral, and other matters. Why not get a copy of this booklet now? Write to: White Haven Memorial Park, 210 Marsh Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534.

WHITE HAVEN MEMORIAL PARK
 210 Marsh Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Please let me have information on Cemetery lots
 Mausoleum Crypts and a FREE copy of the booklet
 "Let's Face It Now."

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

We Care about the future of White Haven . . . about the many families who have placed their trust in us . . .

