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## Sunday, June 10, 2018 – Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 3:9-15 | Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 | 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 | Mark 3:20-35

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### GLANCING THOUGHTS

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The fearful Gospel Reading says that there is an unforgiveable sin. What is *that*?

To see the answer, consider the Psalm: *out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? Who doesn't feel this way about his sins?*

And now notice how the Psalm continues: *But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered*—or, as another translation has it, *that you may be feared*.

Why think that God forgives your sins so that you might revere or fear him? Wouldn't it be more true to say that you fear God because you worry about your sins? Wouldn't you fear that if you faced God, your sins would just seem worse because you would see them in the light of God's holiness?

And yet look what the Psalm says: there is forgiveness with God! God's forgiveness can gentle you into a surrender to God's love, can't it? If God himself loves you and forgives your sins, then wouldn't you love God and want to cleave to him? And so the Psalmist is right: there is forgiveness of your sins with God so that you might fear God—with a fear of God's punishing or forsaking you, but

just with a fear of your own turning away from the Lord who forgives you.

But, then, if God forgives you so that you might fear him, what sin of yours is unforgiveable?

You can see the answer for yourself now, can't you?

What happens if when God forgives you, you turn away from him instead of cleaving to him and fearing him? If you turn away from God even when God forgives you, then there is nothing left that God can do for you, is there? The gift of God's forgiveness is there for you. But if you won't open to receive it, then even God can't give it.

And what does a refusal to accept God's forgiveness come to except a refusal to believe that the love and forgiveness of God are there, there *for you too*? In effect, a refusal of God's forgiveness is a rejection of God as love.

And so the unforgiveable sin is a permanent refusal to accept God's forgiveness. But that refusal really is blasphemous against the Spirit of God, isn't it? What does Scripture say? God is Love. (1 John 4: 7-8)

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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- It all started with Adam and Eve and their refusal to do the will of God. Who did Adam blame? Who did Eve blame? Can we ourselves blame them that we are not living in the garden of paradise?
- If Adam is responsible for the "seen" and Christ is responsible for the "unseen," could Adam's sin be a "happy fault"? It brought Christ into our world to bring us more of an abundance of grace than we would have had in the garden of Eden.
- Is the doing the will of God always easy? Do you think it was easy for Jesus when he figured out what God was asking him to do? Do you always know what the will of God is in a situation? What helps?

### FROM POPE FRANCIS

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Pope Francis has three suggestions regarding our praying for the will of God. Can you name them?

*Do I pray that the Lord gives me the desire to do his will, or do I look for compromises because I'm afraid of God's will? Another thing: praying to know God's will for me and my life concerning a decision that I must take. ... The way in which we handle things. ... there are so many things. Praying for the desire to do God's will and praying to know God's will. And when I know God's will, praying again for the third time, to follow it. To carry out that will, which is not my own, it is his will. And all this is not easy.*

~Pope Francis, on Discernment, Santa Marta, 27 January 2015

### LIVING THE READINGS

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- Embrace the loving mercy of God this week. This could include offering forgiveness to one that you have wronged, accepting the forgiveness of someone who has wronged you, and especially in receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.