

Ill, mother of Tom and Pete    University of Notre Dame    Benediction at 5 p.m. . . For  
Campbell; uncle of Tom           Religious Bulletin           Jim Aoki \$178. Loosen up --  
Clancy; Fr. Cunningham, C.S.C.    March 3, 1952           it's Lent.

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Pig Or Sheep.

The rebel angels had no second chance. Pride and its expression "I will not serve" damned Lucifer and his followers. Adam and Eve fell, too, but each had a second chance, and many more. There's a mystery in this as there are untold mysteries in God. But above all His works the Mercy of God is revealed in His treatment of sinners, in His Passion and Death on the Cross, in His Redemption of the human race.

Christ specifically stated that he had come to call sinners to repentance. He tells us the healthy do not need a physician. When Peter asked Him how many times we should forgive our brother, Christ said, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven times."

If this is true of fraternal forgiveness, how much more so is it true of divine forgiveness. It makes no difference what the past has been, nor how many falls, defeats, failures and relapses there we may have had. The forgiveness of the prodigal son who repents is as realistic today as it was true in the time of Christ.

God's pardon is always available. The father of the prodigal son had forgiveness always available in his heart--but it was conditional. The errant son must first change his disposition, leave his haunts of sin, and ask to be forgiven.

A warning is contained in Our Lord's use of sheep and swine. As the Good Shepherd He seeks His lost sheep, but on one occasion when He cast out devils from a man He recast them into swine. . . "When a sheep falls into a mud puddle, it tries to get out and bleats for rescue;" when a pig falls in, it grunts, relaxes, and stays there.

Virtue, Passivity?

Innocence does not necessarily mean virtuousness. We speak of an innocent child, but a virtuous man. A required virtue is an active quality of the soul, not passive. A virtuous man is a triumphant man, and he has to triumph over something. He is one who has conquered temptation, not one who has never been tempted.

Timid persons are sometimes considered to be virtuous, whereas in fact they are afraid to do anything wrong. Timidity may be a form of pride or cowardice. Many timid people are considered good people, when "really they have not enough courage to do either a very good or a very evil act of any kind."

Character has been defined as "life dominated by principles." To dominate means to control. It implies two courses of action, one good, the other bad. One is chosen in preference to the other in spite of opposition--or temptation.

A Christ-like character is one whose life is dominated by the principles of conduct given to us by Christ. Christ's principles are chosen, they dominate, but not without opposition from the world, the flesh or the devil himself.

Character in the sense we are talking about does not depend on a lack of energy to do wrong; "it requires the use of great energy in doing right when wrong solicits us," whether it acts against the moral pressure of a mob or the more genteel pressure of a friend.

As someone has said it is not the energy criminals use in sinning that is wrong--it is the misuse of that energy. If the energy and boldness it takes to criticize others were used to criticize self and to uproot personal faults, the world would become better, because we always make the world better by making ourselves better.

Prayers: (deceased) father of Ferd. Miholich, '40; mother of John J. Martin, '44; grandmother of Will. Santini; cousin of Henry and Paul Balling; Mother Gertrude, O.S.U.