

UNTOLD BLESSING: THREE PATHS TO HOLINESS

EPISODE 3

KNOWING YOU ARE A SINNER: PART I

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Read Luke 5:1-10. Why does Peter react to Jesus as he does? How does Jesus respond to him? What is the biblical author trying to teach us about God's mercy for us when we see our own sin in the light of His presence?

Read Romans 7:14-25. What does Paul discover about himself as he looks deeply into the commandments of God? Does he believe he can overcome his sins by a heroic effort of will? How can he defeat sin?

Read John 9:35-41. After giving sight to the blind man, Jesus harshly rebukes the Pharisees. Why is the blind man forgiven but the Pharisees are warned that guilt remains?

Read Psalms 32:1-6. What happened to the psalmist when he pretended he could hide his sin from God? What happened when he revealed his sin to God?

Read John 2:13-17. Fr. Barron says that God's anger is God's passion to set things right." How is it difference from human anger? How does Jesus illustrate this?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

According to CCC 537, when we are baptized, we enter into the "mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance" and "go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him." Can you think of ways in which this pattern is shown in the Old Testament? How about in your daily life?

What examples can you give from your own life or from contemporary culture of people like Saul, the righteous Pharisee, who are on a path they think is consistent with God's will, but is really sinful? How does God help us break through this illusion?

The anger of God is directed toward destroying the power of sin in our lives and freeing us to live happy and empowered lives in the Holy Spirit. How does it feel to truly repent and be forgiven by God? How does refusal to forgive others damage our own spiritual lives?

As sinners, one of the impulses we have is to try to escape from God. From Adam hiding in the Garden of Eden to Peter's, "Go away from me, Lord!" human beings have fled from having God's light shined on dirty souls. What prompts us to flee from God? How does God continue to pursue us and offer His grace to us?