

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 31st.SUNDAY YEAR-A-2023:

THE HYPOCRISY OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONDEMNED:

Prophetic Malachi could be classified as a **fire and brimstone** prophet considering the condemnation he did to the priests of his time, due to the sacrifices they offered to God. They were offering lame, sick, blind animals, the kind the owners wanted to get rid of rather than giving the best as an offering (mal.1:14-2:2,8-10). The priests were properly bribed to accept such animals and the prophet condemned this action. They were not teaching the people the proper doctrines. What do we ourselves offer to our God? Do you give him the balance from your shopping spree or you give him the best. Malachi too condemned people for breaking God's covenant through sins of **adultery, dishonesty and injustices**. Look at the corruption we have in our world and injustice almost everywhere. Suppose Malachi was around!

Malachi and Jesus are dealing with the sinfulness of their time and our time indeed. The Pharisees were the custodians of the law and liturgy and were very well versed in those fields that is why our Lord is telling that **do what they tell you but don't follow their example (Mt.23:3)**.

They liked looking good rather than being **good, bringing glory to themselves rather serving people of God and bringing glory to Him**. What they teach was absolute and expected people to obey and follow without questioning. They felt others must bend to their demands hence the **abuse of the authority and positions**. Is this not happening in our present day time among the different leaders even in the church circles? So much trust yet abuse of the offices. **sexual abuse of the minors, financial mismanagement and material and authority abuse in the church can be detected**. Am sure we would face the wrath of Malachi and Jesus not only in the church also in the society.

Note the fact that parents, teachers professional and in whatever work you are involved in you are in a position of authority, how do you exercise your authority over others. Do you load it on others and you don't raise a finger to move the load yourself (Mt.23:4) don't we expect **competence from others but not ourselves, harsh correcting others**

and shouting at the them but we get and feel insulted whenever we are corrected,questioning others but we became mad ourselves,sending unruly abusive text to others,we excuse ourselves but not excusing others whenever they make human mistakes.How many times do we load **gossip,insults abusive language and harassment's to others.**is this not Pharisee in ourselves?

Do we do something for others to see even in our devotions and in prayers or we do it for the greater glory of God.**Our** faith as Catholics no matter what position you are in should do everything with **sincerity of service with respect accountability,dedication and humility.**There should be no contradiction of inner **life of holiness** with external life which might be **dark,full of anger,bitterness, envy and self righteousness** no preaching water and drinking wine!

Christ is calling us to be humble and telling us the greatest among ourselves must be servant of all(Mt.23:11) whoever makes himself great will be humbled and whoever humbles himself shall be made great(12).which one do you choose today?

Every time we come for mass Jesus is telling us to **take off our mask and costumes of acting and be ourselves,he is telling you come to me just as you are** in other words we acknowledge we all fall short of Gods glory hence we **need his grace to lift us.**let's make our life a **living gospel for all people hear and see and let's not be afraid of the truth about ourselves rather we should be afraid of the mask we have.**