

Reflection by Sister Mary Thomas

February 12, 2017
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



“...To whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before you are life and death, good and evil, whichever you choose will be given to you. Sirach 15:16-17?”

Living a responsible and accountable life is not for the faint-hearted. This standard of living means paying attention to the near decisions of today while minding the horizon in terms of what might be the intended and unintended consequences of today's choices. God described those moments as the people were stiff-necked or God would remove their stony heart and give them a heart of flesh. We seldom remember the decision that began to form the wedge in a relationship. What is now evident is the major upset and we are left wondering “Where did this come from?”

As Jesus said in today's Gospel anger is the wedge that was allowed to fester. Murder is reaping the fruit of what was sown. The wedge became a chasm. When we allow what is not life-giving to take a hold, or have a place in our life we are setting off on a trajectory that does not lead to fullness of life.

Fortunately we also hear today that when we live an ordered life through the commandments and virtuous living we will be called the greatest in the reign of God and no eye has seen what God has prepared for those who love God and neighbor.

God, source of all life, help us be mindful this day of choosing life by being willing to forgive and to receive forgiveness. Amen.