

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR 3)      June 13, 2010  
(2 Samuel 12: 7-10, 13; Galatians 2: 16, 19-21; Luke 7: 36-8: 3)

### **Love and forgiveness are closely connected and they bring Joy**

An old man once saw a scorpion that had become tangled in the roots of an old tree in a swamp. The old man crawled out and tried to help the scorpion free itself. But each time he did, the scorpion bit him. On the shore was a smart little boy who laughed at the old man and said: ***“Hey, old man, all you are getting out of trying to help that scorpion is a swollen hand. What a fool you are.”***

The old man replied simply, ***“Just because it is the scorpion’s nature to sting, should I change mine, which is to save?”***

Brothers and sisters, are we willing to help people, including forgiving and loving them, even at risk to ourselves?

On the other hand, David acknowledges his sin and experiences the Lord’s forgiveness. The sinful woman is forgiven by Jesus because of her great love. Like David - and like the penitent woman in the Gospel – let us acknowledge our sins and turn to the One who even forgives sins. There is joy in being forgiven of our sins.

We hear David’s response in today’s Psalm. If you look it up in the Bible, you will see that Psalm 32 is a ***“Psalm of David.”*** It expresses his joy: ***“Blessed is the one whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered.”*** It is one of the greatest expressions of pure joy that we find in the Bible. We also see the joy of forgiveness in today’s Gospel. Jesus says to the repentant woman; ***“Your sins are forgiven.”*** One can easily imagine her relief - the joy she could hardly contain.

Jesus wants to say the same words to you and to me: ***“Your sins are forgiven.”*** But like David and the penitent woman, we need to confess our sins, do penance and make a firm resolution to amend our life. Forgiveness, therefore, does involve a process that includes sorrow, change of behavior, confession, retribution and absolution. Are you ready to seek for God’s forgiveness so as to experience the joy of being forgiven?

**GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!**