



Year A – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time: Morality - Good vs Evil

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mt 5:17-37**- <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 2/12/2023, 2/15/2026, 2/18/2029

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank You for Your guidance on how to live our lives. Give us the wisdom to turn to You and discern properly as we make our daily decisions. Fill us with Your courage to follow Your guidelines even when it isn't popular. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. There are a number of teachings talked about in the reading today. Can you identify at least 3 commands that God gives us in this reading? Was there a particular sentence or word that stood out to you?
2. Does this reading indicate any consequences of not choosing God's ways?

YouTube Video: How Do We Know If Something Is Good or Evil with Fr. Mark Mary (9.14 min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooxEQ08rvLw>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

3. In worldly morality, Fr. Mark-Mary indicates that intention is many times the only criteria used to evaluate a good act. Can you think of examples where this is true?
4. Fr. Mark-Mary shares that Catholic morality looks at three components to judge if an act is good or evil.
 1. Object of the act (what are you doing),
 2. Intention (hoping to achieve), and
 3. Circumstances surrounding the act.Is this new to you? What are your thoughts on this? Will this change how you make decisions in the future?
5. Fr. Mark-Mary goes on to share that there are certain acts that no matter the intention or circumstances, they will always be intrinsically evil, like murder. Is this a surprise to you? Do you agree?
6. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to help you decide between right and wrong? How did it go?
7. Do you think/feel prayerfully reflecting on your day would help to improve your decision making in any way? Why or why not? Do you have a habit of daily reflection that you would like to share?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- In the evening take some time to prayerfully reflect on these three questions:
 1. Did I treat people throughout the day in a Christ-like way?
 2. Were my words worthy of Christ?
 3. Were my decisions and actions in harmony with my mission of keeping truth and love united as a Christian?Thank God for the good that you were able to accomplish with the help of His grace; ask for (and accept!) His forgiveness for your shortcomings and sins. Say an Act of Contrition and renew your commitment to follow Him even more closely tomorrow.
- If you are Catholic, make every effort to go to confession. Know that the Lord loves you and wishes to shower you with His cleansing grace to help you turn away from sin and evil.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear Jesus, we humbly thank You for the gift of Your commandments and Your Living Word to help us as we navigate through our lives. We invite You into our daily decisions. Help to form our consciences so that we can more easily choose good over evil. Place others in our lives who will help us to follow You and give us the courage and wisdom to act and submit to Your will. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Sir 15:15-20**; Sunday Reading 2: **1 Cor 2:6-10**