

Reflection Saturday after Ash Wednesday 2024

The response to the psalm sums up succinctly our Lenten Journey: *"Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth."*

For those who know they are far from holy and in need of God's forgiveness, it is heartening to hear that Jesus had come to help them. Living and eating with the Tax Collectors, whom everyone despised whether good or bad, shows the openness of Jesus to all those who are rejected or excluded from society. Sinners are not necessarily evil people; many sinners are very good people. The difference between them and other good people is that they recognise that they cannot live their lives without God's help every day of their lives.

With God's help we can all make a difference:

When a man collapsed at a busy intersection, emergency services were summoned and the man taken to the nearest Hospital. Periodically, he regained consciousness and would repeatedly call out for his son. A nurse discovered an old letter in his wallet and requested his son should come immediately. Upon the marine's arrival, the nurse escorted him to the man's bedside and whispered, *"Your son is here! Your son is here!"* The elderly man did not recognize the marine but noticed his uniform and took comfort in his presence. The young marine held the old man's hand, offering compassion and love each time he regained consciousness. The marine sat by the old man's bedside holding his hand until dawn when the patient died. The nurse offered her condolences to the marine, who stammered, *"Nurse, who is this man?"* The nurse replied hesitantly, *"I thought he was your father."* The marine responded, *"Honestly, nurse, my father passed away a long time ago. I have never seen this man before in my life."* The nurse asked, *"Then why did you not say something earlier?"* The marine replied, *"I could see that he was too sick to realize that I was not his son. I could also see that he was slipping fast and needed his son's comfort. So, I decided to stay."*