**Healing Brokenness in Love**

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The readings of today have left us with no option than to speak up. There is an impending danger leading to destruction against which we must warn the world.

* We have been made watchmen, by virtue of our baptism, to salvage the world as it moves down ward trail of moral collapse. We cannot afford to close our eyes against evil.
* The danger we face is stronger within than without. Vigilance is the remedy against that enemy because it has the opportunity to know when we are unguarded and when to strike. Internal crisis is more dangerous.
* We need to be prophets of our time. Only that as a result of the apathy, the moral indifference today, prophetic voices are beginning to shrink or completely gone out of circulation.
* The warning in the readings of today is directed more to us than to the world. We cannot correct the world if we are not vigilant ourselves

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9; “Thus says the LORD: You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.”

* As at the time this prophesy was given, the sins of the people of Israel already weighed upon them heavily. The enemy they faced was more from within than external. So, it was the role of the prophet to relay to the people the impeding and inevitable judgment to come.
* God does not intend the destruction of the work of His hand, prefers whatever He has created to have life abundantly.
* This prophetic voice is becoming weak in the society. We have developed, however, a “live and let live” morality by which we can avoid any conflicts but also avoid talking about what is right and what is wrong.
* We are called to admonish the sinner. “‘O wicked one, you shall surely die’, and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death.”
* There is greatness in the word of a prophet. People who encounter him should have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10; St Paul, who knows that love is the fulfilment of all law, is challenging the ‘live and let live’ attitudes of life. He knows that such attitude does not come out of love.

* If error is not corrected, then we cannot be loving the person. This does not mean that we should not make people feel good, but we should also let them know the real good.
* We should know that love does better than evil to us. It makes us look more to the higher good than the temporary life that we are living now. It brings the ultimate closer to us than we can ever imagine.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20; is a passage on how to bring reconciliation with a deep awareness of the truth of the situation. We are to know that we offend each other at times.

* “Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.”
* The real reason is that if we have come to recognize our own brokenness and lack of love towards others, then we will find it much easier to deal with the brokenness and lack of love in others.
* We all are broken and need correction, and this correction can only come within the context of love.