

# Second Hand Preacher

*First Sunday of Lent*

March 5, 2017

**Romans 5:12-19**

The first time Pope Francis was interviewed he was asked who he was and he replied that he was a sinner. Isn't that true for all of us? We are always in need of forgiveness. Anyone who doesn't isn't being honest. Does that mean we are not worthy of God? We are only worthy because of Jesus. He is our light in the darkness; he is our compassion and our truth. None of us are perfect, yet we need to strive for union with God. We are sinners and sometimes we need to ponder that origin.

St. Paul was writing to the Romans, but this letter was the first to become universal. This letter is a great teaching tool for all the new Christians who were trying to live the way of Jesus. The majority of them had a familiarity with Jewish Scripture. They would have known the first reading we have this week. This is the story of the fall of our first parents. Adam is the man through who the first sin entered the world. The disobedience of Adam and Eve, in consuming the fruit of the forbidden tree, made sin become part of the human condition. As people came to conversion, they came to believe in the new Adam. Jesus is the one that conquered sin and death. He is humanity's new beginning. Because of Adam, there was condemnation; but Christ put the full effects of condemnation aside. Paul wanted his followers to know that they still had the human condition, but that faith in Jesus is their healing remedy.

Lent marks a journey toward union with the risen Christ. We die to self as we recognize our human frailty, but we live in Christ as we keep moving on our Lenten journey. Make this Lent a time of renewing our relationship with Jesus. May our fasting, prayer and almsgiving help mold us into the image of our Savior. To fast is to purify our hearts. To pray is to deepen our communication with the eternal. To give alms is to be a friend to the poor and lowly. We want the source of all truth to lead us to everlasting happiness. This Jesus takes away the first sin making possible our redemption.