

Lent Day 13

Wednesday March 15, 2017

Reading: Romans 5:12-21

15 But the gift is not like the trespass...But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Have you ever seen those old arm wrestling machines, even in a movie? There's the image of a huge man with a grimace on his face and a thick electronic arm ready to wrench your arm into submission. As a kid when I would try to beat this machine I had no hope at all, I could feel the force just taking me down as if I wasn't there at all. In those days I thought of that machine as unbeatable. It was too powerful for me — it may still be!

We have been talking about the Power of Sin which has taken all of humanity captive and we've been talking about God's breaking of that power through Jesus' death and resurrection. Yet that begs the question, "how?" The machine seems unbeatable. So Paul tells us the logic of the action. There were two actions: 1) Adam's trespass (he broke the command) and 2) Jesus' obedience (he was obedient to God's will — even to death). Yet these were not equal actions — Jesus' action out did Adam's.

In explaining the role of the Law Paul says that the Law came in to bring Sin to it's fullest, but where sin increased God's gift of grace increased even more. More over, where increased sin brought death, increased grace brought life. Sin can do it's worst, God's grace will pin it every time!

What have you been discovering about yourself this lent? Have you witnessed sin present in your life? Then look closer because God's grace is even greater than what you see. The gift is not like the trespass. The one armed wrestler is no match for the power of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Mighty God, who in Christ had the power to be obedient unto death, we thank you for the freedom which has set us free and for the life that you have provided in Christ. Amen.