

## Ordinary 7A - 2023

The comedian Buddy Hackett once confessed, "I've had a few arguments with people, but I never carry a grudge. You know why? While you're carrying a grudge, they're out dancing."

Zig Ziglar tells of a small boy on his way home from school who was confronted by three bullies, any one of whom could have beaten him up, and that seemed to be their intention. The boy wasn't too well qualified to fight, so he did some quick thinking. He backed up dramatically, drew a line in the dirt with his shoe, looked the leader of the group in the eye, and said, "Now you just step across that line."

The big bully confidently stepped across the line. The small boy smiled broadly and exclaimed; "Now we're on the same side!" Ziglar doesn't tell whether it worked, but it was the kind of creative approach to hostility that Jesus would have praised.

### **What We Grab Also Grabs Us**

Once there was an eagle, which hovered over a lake and suddenly swooped down and caught a two-foot long fish in its talons. Slowly, the bird rose with its ten-pound catch, but when it reached about 1,000 feet, it began to descend, until it splashed into the water. Later, both the bird and fish were found dead. Apparently the fish was too heavy for the eagle, but it could not let go, for its talons were embedded in the flesh of the fish.

The truth is that what we grab, grabs us. When we grab alcohol, drugs, or sex, it grabs us and brings us down to death. (by John Brokhoff from *Old Truths For New Times*, CSS Publishing Company, Inc.)

**"It was easy. I just kept my eyes fixed on the lightening rod:"**

It was winter and it had snowed heavily. A group of children were trying to see who could make the straightest track across a snowy field. Only one of them succeeded in making a path, which was almost perfectly straight. When asked how he managed to do it, he said, "It was easy. I just kept my eyes fixed on the lightening rod on top of the barn at the end of the field - while the rest of you kept looking at your feet."

The First Reading of today from the Book of Leviticus asserts that God alone is the source of all holiness, and in order to strive towards holiness, our eyes are always to be fixed upon Him.

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**"But trifles make perfection, perfection is no trifle."**

The great sculptor, Michelangelo, was at work on one of his statues when a friend called on him and said - "I can't see any difference in the statue since I came here a week ago. Have you not been doing any work all the week?"

"Yes! I have been working the whole week along," said the sculptor - "See, I have retouched this part, softened this feature, strengthened this muscle, and put more life into that limb." "But those are only trifles," said the friend.

"True," said Michelangelo, "but trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

Today's Gospel passage concludes with Jesus saying, *"Be perfect, just as your Heavenly Father is perfect."*

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