

## Fr Ryan Homily 2/26/2023

Read: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 51; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

So you and I we're being lied to. There's a bunch of lies in the readings today and maybe that's the right place for us to begin Lent just to know that we are being lied to. That same one that lied to Jesus when He went out into the wilderness, the same one that lied to the woman in the Garden of Eden, is the same one that lies to us. The evil one just keeps throwing lies at us all the time. And so a big part of Lent in the church, especially on this first Sunday with these readings, is dealing with the lies that are told to us. The lies that get in the way of and mess up our relationship with God; that mess up our relationship with others. And the big lie, the really big lie that's at the heart of so many other smaller lies is there's nothing wrong. There's just nothing wrong. And we do this all the time don't we like you notice someone close to you who's really struggling, you see something is weighing on them, and so you ask what's wrong? And they say nothing, nothing's wrong. And so like the first part of Lent every year is just to admit it would be a lie to say that there's nothing wrong. Because you've heard, even if nobody's said this to you, but we know the message is what? The message is you're perfect just the way you are. You're perfect just the way you are. And I wanna be like really, have you spent time with you? Cause like no offense but I mean I've spent time with me and I know you're perfect Fr Ryan just the way you are is just not true. It's not even close to being true. One of the most obvious truths in life is I'm not okay. Like maybe I can trick people for like four or five minutes into thinking I've got it put together but any more time and people are just like you know he's not that great. And I'm like that's true, that's true. You might get it for like ten minutes with other people, I don't know, but we quickly realize I am not okay. There's something wrong but no no no you're perfect just the way that you are. No because that's what you say when you don't know what to say with someone's brokenness. That's what you say when you don't know what to do with a heart that you don't know how to fix. If you don't know what to do in the midst of a world that's come undone we say you're perfect just the way you are. The great news for us a Catholic Christians is what we know from the first reading today. We know the world that God made was not like this one that we have now. Like the world that God made was whole and complete and He creates this man and this woman and they are whole. And they get to walk in this world

that was made for them. And nothing was broken between them. Nothing was broken as they looked at each other. I mean like there is Eve and imagine ladies what it would be to have this man in your life who just looks at you with this gaze of he just adores you. He just loves you, never wants to use you. And for the guys you can imagine that woman looking at you and just oh my gosh like where she thinks like she's the lucky one. That was the Garden of Eden! Right they were whole, they were complete, they walked with God. They could actually look at each other and say you're perfect just the way that you are. But we can't say that to each other anymore. We can't because of what happened in the first reading. Because they were lied to, and they believed it. What happens? Here is Satan and he goes up to Eve and it's interesting the challenge that he levels at her; the way that he lies to her. This good woman who's whole, she intact, she knows that she's loved and what does he say? He doesn't say does God really exist because she'd be like yeah look at the Garden. We walk with Him every afternoon around 4 o'clock. It's pretty awesome. He doesn't say does God really exist, what Satan says is did God really say you can't eat of any of the fruit of the trees in the Garden? So she says no no no He said we could eat of all of them except that one tree because if we eat it or even touch it we will die. And then what does Satan do, he says oh come on – you certainly will not die. God knows well the moment you eat of it you will be like Him. He doesn't want you to be like Him. That's what the devil is saying and that's so devastating because guys that's a lie. It's a lie to say that God doesn't want you to be like Him. How did scripture just describe Adam and Eve? That He made them in His image and likeness. Like Eve you already are. Adam you already are like God. You are as fully like Him as possible. You are whole; you are intact. You are loved by Him, and you can love like Him. The first lie was that God doesn't want you to be like Him when the truth was you already are. But because they believed that lie and they disobeyed God that choice has come all the way down to us. Right their choice has affected us, it's wounded us. That's why they call it Original Sin. It's the first sin and now it's part of us. It didn't just open their eyes now they and we are willing to use each other. It didn't just make them want to hide from God, it made their trust and our trust in Him come undone. Because that choice didn't just break a rule that choice broke the world. That choice didn't just break a rule that choice broke the world. And now we live in that broken world. We live in a world that's fallen, that isn't what it should be, that isn't what it was meant to be, a world where people are

now willing to hurt and use each other. And so into that brokenness our world says what? It says no no no you're perfect just the way that you are. But in the silence when we can be honest with ourselves we see that for the lie that it is. Because I know I'm not as I was meant to be. And I think you know this too that you are not as you were meant to be. The truth is we are not even what we could be. And so our culture does this thing about self-esteem because we don't know what to do with people who have come undone. And so we pretend that nothings wrong. Even as the world around us and the world within us keeps collapsing. And so if we can just pause here for a moment, lets just take a second. Can we just stop and admit that something is wrong. Can we start there during Lent? That's how we have to enter Lent as a church. It's just saying something has gone wrong in my heart. That somewhere along the way I believed a lie, or I believed many lies and I started to live like those lies were the truth and because of that it's undone me in some way. We begin Lent by just admitting that my heart has come undone. And we admit that so that now, now we can ask the question what am I gonna do in these 40 days to let Jesus undo what's been undone in me? What am I gonna do these 40 days to let Jesus undo what's been undone in me? And you know it shouldn't just be one thing like we like to choose one thing every year but it's whatever needs to be done to let Jesus undo what's been undone in me. And so yes it's giving up stuff, sacrifices, penances, but it's also prayer. It's also making an effort to go to the sacrament of confession. It's also works of charity. It's being real with the people that we love and the people that we don't love and know that we should. And why that is. It's going to Jesus and saying please undo in me what's been undone in these lies so that I can undo what's been undone in my relationships with other people. And you say well that's kinda a messy way to understand it or say it but that's okay because Lent is about saying I created a mess for myself in my heart because I believed the evil one's lies and I started to live like they were true. And it created a mess between me and God. It created a mess between me and others. And so Jesus let's talk about the best ways for you to undo what's been undone in my heart. Because here's the other truth that we need to be reminded of this morning. It's an even more profound truth than just admitting that I'm not perfect just as I am. This is what we all need to know that no I'm not perfect as I am, but I am loved as I am. See that's what the culture can't offer. That's why the culture has to keep saying your perfect just the way that you are because it's God Himself that says no you're not perfect as you are,

but you are loved as you are. You are not perfect as you are but you are called to be more than you are. Like no you're not perfect as you are but you are fought for by a God who loves you just as you are. And this is what they can't offer. This is only what God can offer us. And this is the gospel today; this is what's happening. Why is Jesus out there in the wilderness? He's out there to fight for you. He's out there taking on the devil so He can undo what's been undone in the world and in you. He's taking on the devil's lies and He's not buying into them. Jesus is there and He's telling us no you're not perfect and so I'm gonna fight for you to make you mine. No you're not perfect but you're worth Me laying down My life for you in your imperfection. I'm here to undo what's been undone in you – that's Lent. That's what Lent is, it's going with Jesus these 40 days and watching everything He does, hearing every word that He speaks all the way to the cross. Letting Him undo in the world and in you what's been undone. Why? Because we believe the lies. Because we've sinned. And so Jesus says you can't do this for yourself anymore so I will do it for you because you are loved. But now you have to let me undo what's been undone in you. So last thing, Jesus in the wilderness and Jesus on the cross. He says you were made for the good and I don't need to hold onto it in this life, I will give it up. I just want you to have it. You were made to be with the Father. You were made to walk with Him, and I'll even live in His shadow. I just want you to have Him again. Cause I look around the world and all these things that have come undone, the things in me that have come undone. But now here is Jesus and He has come to undo what's been undone.

Amen