

In today's Reading, Ezekiel is cautioning the people to Obey God's laws as laid down by Moses. "If the wicked man renounces all the sins he has committed, respects my laws and is law-abiding and honest, he will certainly live: he will not die." To turn from God's laws would bring death. "If the upright man renounces his integrity, commits sin, copies the wicked man and practices every kind of filth, is he to live?" This is not God's choice, but one made by the individual in question. "When man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this. He dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. However, the route to Life is always open. "When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live.

Jesus, in the Gospel, is introducing a new interpretation of God's Law, summed up in the Law of Love. ".....if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court." The Law of God is about living in relationship and Jesus explains how this law is to be lived. Reconciliation is more important than a show of offerings before the altar! "Go and be reconciled with your brother first." "Come to terms with your brother in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison."

We are all human, and we fail often. When we sin, we spoil our relationship with God, and we spoil our relationship with our fellow man/woman. God always loves us and wants us to turn back to him. In the same way, he wants us to reconcile with our neighbour, our fellow man or woman.