

Influencers and Imitators

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

New
Testament
Reading

“And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.” 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

Have you ever noticed that you and the people you spend time with react in similar ways to things? You may also share some of the same mannerisms. Laugh at the same jokes. Use the same words to express how you're feeling. You probably even make similar fashion choices to the people you hang out with.



This is because people influence each other. We don't always know it's happening, but we become like the people we spend the most time with.



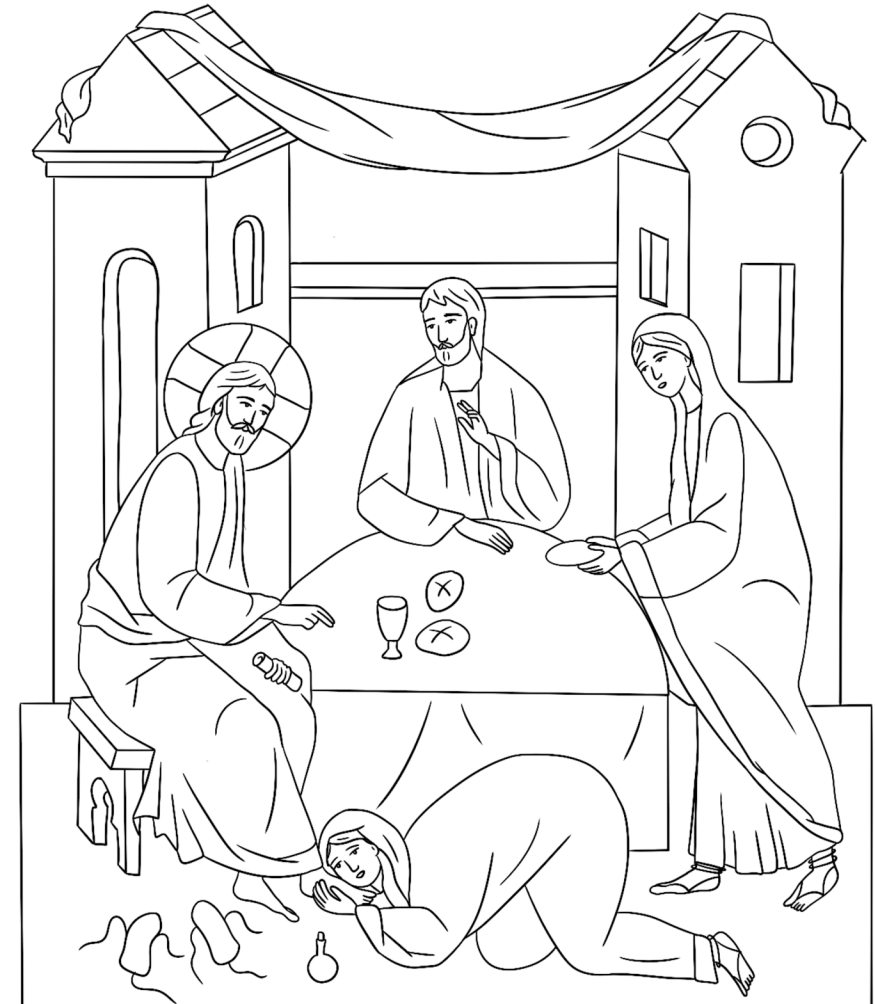
It is very important to be aware of the people we are spending our time with. They should be people who are kind and who encourage us to be more like Christ.



This also means it is important for us to be the kind of people that encourage others to be more Christlike. As you go through this next week think about who is influencing you and what kind of influence you are being to others.



15th Sunday of Pentecost, Vol 2, No. 53



“So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”





Gospel Corner

Luke
7:36-50

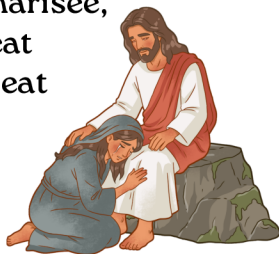
In the Apostle John's first letter, he writes an important phrase: "he who says he is without sin is a liar." Because of our fallen human nature, we all commit sins at times.

Hopefully we are trying not to, but because we are weak and prone to make bad choices, we will do things that offend God. God knows this about our human nature, and so he is always patient, understanding, and forgives us when we repent.



In today's Gospel story, we hear about a time when Jesus went to dinner at the home of a Pharisee. A Pharisee was a religious man in the time of Jesus who closely followed the written and oral laws of God.

While having dinner at the home of the Pharisee, a woman whom everyone knew was a great sinner came into the room and showed great love, honor, and respect to Jesus. The Pharisee looked on her with disdain because he only saw her sins, but Jesus could see into her heart.



Jesus also knew the heart of the Pharisee, so he asked him a question - if two people had a debt, one a small debt and one a large debt, and both were forgiven, who would be more grateful? The one with the small debt, or the one with the large debt? Jesus was pointing out to the Pharisee that everyone is in debt to God - everyone has sinned!

We are called to first look at ourselves and our own sins, and when we are sorry for our sins and receive God's forgiveness, we restore our relationship with God. The more we come to know the forgiveness of God, the more we can love Him in return.

Did you know?

CONTRITION

Contrition is telling God you are truly sorry for making a bad choice, feeling sad that you hurt Him, and promising to try your best not to do it again.



True contrition is feeling bad because you love God, and you know your wrong choices (sins) hurt your friendship with God.

What you can do

BE KIND

Be aware of the kind of person you are being. Are you being kind and Christlike to everyone?

Go to Confession this week.

Apologize to people you've hurt and forgive people who have hurt you.



Act of Contrition

We pray the Act of Contrition every time we go to confession. It is good to have it memorized, but you can also trace over the words below, cut out the prayer and take it with you to confession if that is helpful for you.

O my God,

I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

