

Sin is always attractive, if it weren't we wouldn't commit sin. What is sinful attracts momentarily and we fall into the trap of believing it will satisfy our needs. But the following day we are still dissatisfied. Why? Because what is sinful never satisfies. The devil deceives us to make us think that sin is attractive but we discover afterwards that sin damages and did not bring the joy we wanted.

One day while walking down the street a highly successful person was tragically hit by a bus and she died. Her soul arrived up in heaven where she was met at the Gates of Heaven by St. Peter himself.

"Welcome to Heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you get settled in though, it seems we have a problem. You see, we've never once had someone like you make it this far and we're not really sure what to do with you."

"No problem, just let me in" said the woman. "Well, I'd like to, but I have higher orders. What we're going to do is let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven and then you can choose whichever one you want to spend an eternity in."

"Actually, I think I've made up my mind, I prefer to stay in Heaven", said the woman. "Sorry, we have rules..." And with that St. Peter put the executive in an elevator and it went down down down to hell. The doors opened and she found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a clubhouse and standing in front of her were all her friends - fellow executives that she had worked with and they were all dressed in evening gowns and cheering for her. They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks and they talked about old times. They played an excellent round of golf and at night went to the clubhouse where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner. She met the Devil who was actually a really nice guy (kinda cute, he always is) and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. She was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook her hand and waved goodbye as she got on the elevator. The elevator went up-up-up and opened back up at the Gates of Heaven and she found St. Peter waiting for her.

"Now it's time to spend a day in heaven," he said. So she spent the next 24 hours lounging around on clouds and playing the harp and singing. She had a great time and before she knew it her 24 hours were up and St. Peter came up to her. "So, you've spent a day in hell & you've spent a day in heaven. Now choose your eternity," he said. The woman paused for a second and then replied, "Well, I never thought I'd say this, I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell." So St. Peter escorted her to the elevator and again she went back to Hell. When the doors of the elevator opened she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. She saw her friends were dressed in rags and were picking up the garbage and putting it in sacks. The Devil came up to her and put his arm around her.

"I don't understand," stammered the woman, "yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a clubhouse and we ate lobster and we danced and had a great time. Now all there is a wasteland of garbage and all my friends look miserable." The Devil looked at her and smiled. "Yesterday we were recruiting you, today....you're staff."

That story reminds me of a fact of life. Sin is always attractive, if it weren't we wouldn't commit sin, but what is sinful attracts momentarily and we fall into the trap of believing it will satisfy our needs. But the following day we are still dissatisfied. Why? Because what is sinful never satisfies. The woman in the story was deceived. That's the way it is with the devil and sin. The devil deceives us to make us think that sin is attractive but we discover afterwards that sin damages and did not bring the joy we wanted. The woman in the story was confused, and we in our times we are confused. We do not seem to know anymore that sin is sin. **Sin is inviting us AND God is inviting us, we have to choose.**

In the first reading today Sirach says "If you choose, you can keep my commandments. If you trust in God, you will live. Before man are life and death-- good and evil, whatever he chooses will be given him." It's our choice – Free Will. I gift from God, because He loves us and wants us to CHOOSE to love Him. So the 2nd reading can say, "Eye has not seen, Ear has not heard, what God has prepared for those that love Him". We cannot even IMAGINE what God has prepared for His faithful people. So Jesus says "You have heard do not kill, but I say do not get angry." "You have heard it said, do not commit adultery, but I say do not look at another with lust". Jesus is saying "Don't entertain sin, don't even start"

We don't start by doing great big Mortal Sins

We start by doing little tiny venial sins – and then they grow

If we are to be what God intends us to be we need to listen to Jesus "but I say, don't even ..."

Let your YES be YES and your NO be NO