

June 08, 2021
Tuesday of the 10th Week
2 Cor 1:18-22
Mt 5:13-16

Recently I watched an old movie from the early 1950's on TV. The movie was titled "The Quiet Man". It's about a man named Sean Thornton, a 1920's American boxer who was born in Ireland. After achieving some success as a boxer, Sean accidentally kills a man in the ring. Racked with guilt, Sean moves to Ireland with the intent to buy the ancestral family farm and live out his days quietly like a grey spot on a grey wall.

But although a quiet man, Sean Thornton cannot live quietly. Even though he has no athletic achievement or fame in Ireland, people nevertheless look up to him because he's a righteous man. He lives large because he lives honorably. He cannot be a grey spot on a grey wall because his light shines forth from the good deeds he does.

It's sometimes tempting to live comfortably as a grey spot on a grey wall. But that's not what we're called to do as Christians. Just like salt enhances flavor and light dispels darkness, so too are we created to enhance the lives of those around us and to chase away darkness in the world with the light of Christ. And, as the movie "The Quiet Man" portrays, enhancing the lives of others and allowing our light as Christians to shine through the darkness is most effectively done by how we live our lives—walking the walk.

Our first reading today is essentially about the constancy of God. "God is faithful" says St Paul. God is always a yes for us. God is always our security. God's Spirit is always alive in our hearts.

The gospel calls us to be constant like God, to constantly allow our Christian light to shine and to live in a way that enhances the lives of others. We are called to be light and salt by the way we live our lives. To be merely a grey spot on a grey wall is to be as useless as flavorless salt or as a lamp hidden under a bushel basket.