

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 ;

## Psalm 116:10-11, 15-18;

### Gospel [MT 5:27-32](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

*"It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

## Body as Temple, not God

Today, the majority of T.V. ads are on the food, clothing and beauty enhancement creams. They all have made us to believe that the comfort of the body is the super most important thing. Our kids are growing up hearing these brand names than the name of God. For many of us, the body has become our God; instead of maintaining body as temple of God. The increased amount of sexual exploitation of the women, scandals involving crores of rupees are all the result of this perverted understanding that "our body is our God." The comforts and pleasures of body get priority in life.

Both the readings of this day point to the sanctity of body. St. Paul speaks of body as a medium to manifest the life of Jesus. The Gospel reading chastises one against looking a man/ woman with lust, not to mention committing adultery. Jesus reminds his listeners that it is better to cut away a part of body instead committing a sin with it. That means there is something more important than the pleasures of the body.

Our body is a sacred reality. The body is the primordial place of experiencing the Divine. There are rituals, symbols, scriptures, etc to experience God. But before going to these, we must experience the Divine in our body. At the root of the Christian faith there is the experience: the word became flesh (Jn 1:14, Jn 1:1). If God came to us receiving human body, then we should first go to God through this body.

On the face of this society where the human body and its pleasures have become "God" itself, we are to show that our body is not God, but temple of God (1 Cor 3:16).

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