

2nd Sunday of Lent – Course Handout
CONSCIENCE: GOD SPEAKING WITHIN

St. John Henry Newman

LENT: A SERIOUS GRACE

- Lent is not sentimental, it is medicinal.
- It is a season of divine confrontation.
- The Church reminds us:
 - Time is passing.
 - Judgment is real.
 - Grace is being offered now.

Lent is meant to awaken the conscience.

WHAT IS CONSCIENCE?

St. John Henry Newman:

“The aboriginal Vicar of Christ in the soul.”

Conscience is:

- Not a feeling
- Not a preference
- Not an emotion
- Not social conditioning

Conscience is:

- God speaking within
- The interior witness to moral truth

“Their conscience bearing witness to them.” (Romans 2:15)

CONSCIENCE SEEKS TRUTH

Emotion seeks comfort.

Conscience seeks truth.

It:

- Accuses
- Disturbs
- Pierces

“More piercing than any two-edged sword.” (Hebrews 4:12)

We avoid silence because in silence, we must listen.

HOW CONSCIENCE IS DULLED

Gradually through:

- Habitual sin
- Rationalization
- Repetition
- Excuses

First guilt.

Then discomfort.

Then nothing.

Ignoring conscience blinds the soul.

FROM CONSCIENCE TO THE CROSS

Conscience reveals sin.

The Passion reveals its cost.

Christ suffered in His soul:

“My soul is sorrowful even unto death.” (Matt. 26:38)

He:

- Saw every sin
- Bore every betrayal
- Chose to suffer fully

“The chalice which My Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11)

If sin were small, there would be no Cross.

LENT IS CONVERSION

Not vague improvement but repentance.

Three truths:

1. God is speaking within.
2. Sin is real.
3. The Cross is the cost.

You can admire the Cross and remain unchanged.

But you cannot ignore conscience forever.

THIS WEEK

- 10 minutes of daily examination of conscience
- Remove one distraction
- Practice silence

Not to feel spiritual but to hear God.

FINAL QUESTION

Christ has already borne your sin.

He has already drunk the chalice.

When He speaks within you will you answer?