

## Reflection on Ezekiel 18:21-28

### Heaven's Not a Point System: God's Grace and the Last-Minute Conversions

Ah, Ezekiel 18:21-28—a passage that proves once and for all that God is **not** running a heavenly credit score system. No, you don't accumulate good deeds like airline miles and trade them in for a first-class seat in heaven. And, thank goodness, there's no spiritual bankruptcy where past sins permanently disqualify you from God's grace.

Ezekiel tells us that **if a wicked person repents, God forgives and forgets the past**—completely. But (brace yourself) if a righteous person **turns away from God**, all their past goodness won't save them. It's a clear message: **every day is a spiritual choice, and we can't just coast on yesterday's holiness.**

### The Fathers Weigh In

**St. John Chrysostom** puts it this way: *"Do not rely on past virtue to save you, nor despair in past sin, for God is concerned with the heart in the present moment."* (Homilies on Ezekiel)

In other words, **holiness is not a retirement plan**, where you just do some good work early in life and then spend the rest coasting with spiritual cocktails on the beach of complacency. No! Each day is a battle for the soul.

Meanwhile, **St. Augustine**, ever the master of repentance himself, reminds us: *"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."* (Sermons on Scripture)

Translation? **Don't be that guy** who says, "I'll get serious about God... later." Later is dangerous. Later is a trap. Because what if your **later** never comes?

### Spiritual Complacency in a World on Fire

Let's be honest. In today's world, **crises are everywhere**—wars, divisions, moral confusion, TikTok trends that make no sense... and let's not even get started on the rising price of coffee! People often look at the world and say, "Why bother being good? Everything's falling apart anyway!" But **Ezekiel tells us that righteousness is never wasted.** The world might be a mess, but your **individual choice for holiness matters.**

Take, for instance, the "Cancel Culture" mentality—where **one mistake defines you forever.** People dig up tweets from 15 years ago and say, *"Aha! You can never change!"* **But God is not Twitter.** He doesn't keep a screenshot of your worst moment. **He lets you delete your past with real repentance.** Imagine if social media worked like confession: *"Bless me, Father, for I have tweeted..."*

On the flip side, **some Christians fall into the “Good Enough” Syndrome**—the idea that because they were baptized, went to Catholic school, and occasionally donate to a canned food drive, they’re set. But Ezekiel warns against this! Holiness is a **daily walk**, not a **one-time achievement**.

### **Practical Takeaways for Lent**

So how do we live out Ezekiel’s message today?

1. **Stop relying on past holiness.** Great, you prayed a Rosary *last week*. But today’s a new day. Get back to work!
2. **Don’t despair if you’ve messed up.** God’s mercy is faster than Wi-Fi. Repent, reboot, and move forward.
3. **Be vigilant.** The enemy doesn’t take vacations, and neither should your soul. Stay spiritually awake!
4. **Make every day count.** Stop delaying your conversion. If you wouldn’t risk losing your phone charger, why risk losing your soul?

### **The God of Second Chances (And Third, And Fourth... )**

God is not an unfair judge who holds grudges. He is the **Father of Mercy**, the One who welcomes prodigals, the One who **rejoices in last-minute conversions** but also calls us to stay faithful until the end.

So this Lent, **don’t gamble on "someday" holiness** or rest on past spiritual victories. **Choose today to be righteous**, and as Ezekiel reminds us—**it’s never too late, but don’t wait until it’s too late**.

Amen? Amen! Now go to confession. 🙏👉