

SEPTEMBER 17 2025 MSGR. DAVID REILANDER

I always get, things of grammar confused, but this one, this one I know. A simile is... is when you say, "An apple is like..." So, here, Jesus says, "This generation is like..." And then, He does a simile.

So, in the marketplace, in His time, children would gather and entertain themselves. They would be able to play simple instruments. And, a flute player might do a tune, and they would dance, or maybe a dirge, and, uh, which would bring them to tears. But, here, Jesus says, uh, "Like children in the marketplace, calling to one another, 'We played the flute for You. You did not dance.'"

"You're not doing what you're supposed to do. You hear music and it's joyful, and you dance. I'm not a dancer. Uh, 'We wept and You did not cry. You did not join us. You're not doing what you're supposed to do.'"

Now, we are made in the image and likeness of God, which means that God has given us a purpose. We are to be like God. To be spiritual, to be filled with faith, to be compassionate, to love, to forgive. But when we ignore that message, we are no longer living the image and likeness of God. We're something else altogether, that God did not intend us to be.

I think it was Saint Augustine, but my memory often fails me. "When we do not act as the image and likeness of God, as God intended us to be, we are lower than the animals." Now, why? Why say that? Sounds very insulting. Because a thing is made for a purpose. It has an end.

So, the Daily TV Mass recently had this beautiful ambo built. They went to a contractor, and said, "We need a beautiful ambo." And so, they took what looks to be like solid oak, and they made a design, and this was the end, and it's fulfilling its purpose very well. It's sturdy. It's high enough. It has a microphone so you can hear me and the ministers who come here. Its form is

very good. If it was floppy and falling apart, well, they would say, "We're not paying you for that unless you give us what's right."

So with the human being. The human being has a purpose. But when we don't live up according to that purpose, we're not doing what our goal, or end, is. We're doing something contrary to that.

And then we get a comparison of John the Baptist and Jesus. John the Baptist is a hermit, and Jesus is out living in the cities. They're offering two different types of ministry styles. And they don't listen to John the Baptist, and they don't listen to Jesus, so it's kind of "damned if you do and damned if you don't situation." "We're giving you choices of different communication styles, and your ears are closed."

You know, even the animals who are not self-conscious perfectly fulfill God's will. Human beings, who are self-conscious and have intelligence, you would think would fulfill God's plan perfectly. But, because we have free will, we can choose. We can choose to act in line with being the image and likeness of God, as Jesus taught us, or, reject it. Adam and Eve rejected it.

So that's the choice that you have. To fulfill your purpose, or not to fulfill your purpose. To be the image and likeness of God, or not be the image and likeness of God. There are consequences to both positions. And so, it's a good time to think about who you are, what you stand for.

When we celebrate the Mass, here at the Daily TV Mass, we are celebrating being, sharing in, the image and likeness of God. And we receive God Himself. If you're doing that, fulfill your end. Be the child God wants you to be.