

-A few decades ago, the book I'm OK—You're OK appeared on the scene. The title is not in line with Christianity / We are not ok / we were born with Original Sin / in our Baptism we are washed clean, but we can still abuse our free-will. BUT

-Be careful of these two extremes / If I am ok, and nothing is wrong with me, why bother going to church / On Sunday morning I will prune my rose bushes, or sleep in / The other extreme: Giving up in despair because of our sins.

-The first one is dangerous because we become so enslaved to pleasure that we never find our authentic self / That we are beloved Sons of God / We miss true liberating freedom when "We rule our body, and not the other way around."

-The second extreme is dangerous because we can fall into a habit listing our weekly sins (where we become too focused on our imperfection) / We then miss God in the moment / Him picking us up after a temper tantrum or a fall / We Miss Divine Mercy / And certainly a daily examination of conscience is important, as we give our sins and hearts to God.

-Jesus desires mercy for those who turn towards Him in repentance.

-So this too, is a remedy for extreme number two / In times of doubt, fear, and anger at our sins / Push our pride aside and turn to Mary / Her intercession / So we can once again know who we are / Know that when we repent we will receive Mercy and Forgiveness / For we are sons of God sharing in Jesus' Sonship.

-And like the woman caught in adultery from this past Sunday / We no longer have to worry about our past sins after Confession.

-Now we can have a peace to let go of our past sins.

-Thus, like St. Paul: we can look forward not behind.

-We can look to the future with new eyes and hope.

We all have a past, but with Jesus we all have a future.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**