

## ***Do I admit my Achilles' heel?***



A group of Pastors went fishing and the senior-most Pastors asked, “Share with me what’s your favorite sin?” The first one said, “My favorite sin is temper. I have a punching bag in my house and every time I am angry with my wife, I hit the punching bag thinking it’s her!” The second one said, “My weakness is Internet. I really struggle with internet games and if I am not careful, I end up with pornography.” The third one said, “Oh man, my problem is Gossip and I cannot wait to get back home and tell everybody about each one of yours’ favorite sin!”

Friends, **we all have our Achilles’ heel – our favorite sin!** As the Greek legend goes – Achilles was the bravest, handsomest, and greatest warrior of the army of Agamemnon in the Trojan War. He was supposed to be invincible, except for his heel. That was his vulnerability. And a poisoned arrow hit his heel and that’s how he died. **Satan knows our Achilles’ heel very well and if we fail to identify it, we are in a great danger for sure!**

In 1989, the United Airlines was flying from Denver to Chicago and at around 30,000 feet altitude; the propeller of the jet engine blew apart! There were 300 passengers on board and it was damn scary! By some miracle, the pilot was able to bring the plane down.

When they looked into the cause of the accident, it was found that the raw material (Titanium) for making the propeller had a microscopic defect – a nitrogen alloy that did not melt properly. This microscopic defect affected the strength of the propeller. However, it did not break immediately. **It exploded only after 18 years of take offs and landings and that too, at 30,000 ft. high!**

If we do not humble ourselves and do not surrender our Achilles’ heel to the Lord, if we refuse to look at it, to admit it and we pretend that we are invincible, it’s a matter of concern! The day will come when it will explode and that too at the most damaging time!

**The Holy season of Lent invites us to LISTEN!** To listen to our family members, our close ones, in order to identify our Achilles’ heel. Do you want to improve? Ask your wife, your husband, your children, your community members, your workers. They know your strengths as well as your weaknesses. And whatever they tell you, do not react, just LISTEN!

There is a classic example of the ‘*Varig Flight 254*’, a short trip flight of mere 48 minutes from Maraba to Belem. The Captain Garcez consulted the flight plan for the magnetic heading to Belém; the flight plan read 0270. **Garcez interpreted this as 270 degrees, but the intended meaning was 027.0 degrees.** After setting the Horizontal Situation Indicator (HSI), Garcez programmed the aircraft performance management system (PMS). The plane took off. It went the exact opposite direction – Instead of North East to the West Amazon jungles! Even after an hour, the destination was nowhere in view!

After the PMS started indicating negative distance to its destination, Captain Garcez realized his mistake. But like many of us, too proud to admit that he made a mistake, he made a stupid announcement, “We cannot land now, because there is no electricity in the airport. But we are circling around the airport and will land soon.”

He kept on, on his own. One more hour – and the plane ran out of fuel and crashed! Of the 54 passengers and crew, 12 passengers died and many more sustained serious injuries. The survivors were rescued two days later. They permanently revoked the license of the Captain and the First officer and these two never flew again! Why? The refusal to LISTEN! The refusal to humble themselves and admit their Achilles' heel!

Friends, we all have our flaws and limits. **And God can heal us and use us to bless others; provided we humble ourselves**, come to Him, and surrender to Him our Achilles' heel!

*“Assure us Lord, that your GRACE is greater than our failures, our vices, our stubbornness and our sins. Bless us with the strength to listen, to obey, to GET UP AND GROW”! Amen!*

**Sr. Rekha Punia, UMI**  
**Nirmala Convent, Kathgodam**