

Ordinary 13C 2022

Right Choices:

A guard in charge of a lighthouse along a dangerous coast was given enough oil for one month and told to keep the light burning every night. One day a woman asked for some oil so that her children could stay warm. Then a farmer came. His son needed oil for a lamp so he could study. Another needed some for an engine.

The guard saw each as a worthy request and gave some oil to satisfy all. By the end of the month, the tank in the lighthouse was dry. That night the beacon was dark, and three ships crashed on the rocks. More than one hundred lives were lost. The lighthouse assistant explained what he had done and why.

But the prosecutor replied, "You were given only one and very important task: to keep the light burning. Every other thing was secondary. Deviation from your responsibility has caused loss of many lives and much property.

You have no excuse." — Temptation is not necessarily a choice between good and evil. Perhaps more confusing and tempting is the conflict when one must choose between the good and the best. The lighthouse keeper in our story found himself in such a conflict situation. And that is what happened to the would-be disciples in today's Gospel story. In such cases the good easily becomes the enemy of the best. One must say NO to a good thing in order to say YES to the one thing necessary.

(Gilbert K. in *Liturgy and Life*; quoted by Fr. Botelho). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

Are You a Jesus Fan or Follower:

A group of Christians was holding a Prayer Meeting in Russia, when such a thing was completely forbidden. Suddenly the door was broken down by the boot of a soldier, who came into the room, faced the group, with a machine gun in hand, and commanded, "If there's any one of you who doesn't really believe in Jesus, then get out now, while you have a chance." There was a rush for the door.

The soldier then closed the door and stood in front of the remainder of the group, with machine gun in hand. He looked around the room, as the people were beginning to think that their end had come.

Then he smiled and said, "Actually, I believe in Jesus too, and you're better off without those others!" (Jack McArdle in *And That's the Gospel Truth*; quoted by Fr. Botelho). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

Fix your priorities in life:

They were 5,000 feet in the air in a two-seater Cessna when suddenly the pilot slumped over. It happened not so long-ago near Mount Hope, Indiana, to an 81-year-old passenger who was flying to Indianapolis for lunch. When his 52-year-old friend and pilot unexpectedly died, the elder passenger realized he knew nothing about flying and a lot less about landing! In the next twenty minutes you can bet he gave his total attention to the voices on the radio and the instructions given to him. Another pilot nearby coached him and gave him a "crash course" (pardon the pun) in flying a two-seat Cessna and most importantly in landing. He circled the airport three times and came in, bounced a few times, and landed in a soggy field. Incredibly, there was no damage except a bent propeller.

If this happened to you or to me today, our number one priority would be determined very, very quickly! The main thing and the only thing would be to land that Cessna and not crash! Stephen Covey in his book, *First Things First*, a *New York Times* best seller for several years, says **the issue for life is just that - first things first.** (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

Our Commitment to Him

In 1982 the same year the film *Chariots of Fire* won the Academy Award, an article appeared in the Reader's Digest. It was about a Catholic advertising executive. In spite of her successful career, she felt emptiness in her life. One morning, during a breakfast meeting with her marketing consultant, she mentioned that emptiness. "Do you want to fill it?" her colleague asked. "Of course, I do," she said. He looked at her and replied, "Then start each day with an hour of prayer." She looked at him and said, "Don, you've got to be kidding. If I tried that I'd go off my rocker." Her friend smiled and said, "That's exactly what I said 20 years ago."

Then he said something else that really made her think. He said, **"You're trying to fit God into your life. Instead, you should be trying to fit your life around God."**

The woman left the restaurant in turmoil. Begin each morning with prayer? Begin each morning with an hour of prayer? Absolutely out of the question! Yet, the next morning the woman found herself doing exactly that. And she's been doing it ever since. The woman is the first to admit that it has not always been easy. There have been mornings when she was filled with great peace and joy. But there have been other mornings when she was filled with nothing but weariness.

And it was on these weary mornings that she remembered something else that her marketing consultant said: "There will be times when your mind just won't go into God's sanctuary.

That's when you spend your hour in God's waiting room. Still, you're there, and God appreciates your struggle to stay there. What's important is the commitment." (*Mark Link in Sunday Homilies*; quoted by Fr. Botelho). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)