

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

Gospel of St. Matthew 6:24-34

Today's reading from St. Matthew has a special significance to me; and it should provide reassurance to us all.

The reading starts with Jesus warning His disciples: "No one can serve two masters. He will either love the one and hate the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Mammon is an Aramaic word, meaning wealth or property. Jesus warns His disciples and by extension us, against letting the pursuit of wealth consume our lives.

Money itself is not the problem; it's the love of money that is the root of all evil. Money is necessary for all of us, but we have a responsibility to be good stewards of what we have. He calls us to be humble followers of Christ and to care for our brothers and sisters. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if in the process he loses his soul?

After Jesus warns the disciples against greed for money, He further advises them to trust in God and not worry. Life can be very difficult at times. For many years, I was a single parent. I had bills and worries galore. It was a very stressful time. However, it was during this time that I rediscovered this specific reading. I had probably read it at least a dozen times before, but I never felt the impact of it until then. It was as if Jesus took the weight of the world off my shoulders. Worrying had not helped me, but once I turned all of these worries over to God, calmness came over me. We only need to follow Jesus' two great commandments; to love God, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

When I volunteered to write this analysis, I was unaware of the assigned reading. The fact that Father assigned this specific reading is a sign from God that He is always there for us. He is always willing to take our burdens from us, if we only trust in Him and seek His will.

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