

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

-- Wednesday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

-- Feast of St. Peter Claver

***Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention:
Joseph & Marguerite Schmalhofer***

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31

Brothers and sisters: In regard to virgins, I have no commandment from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. So this is what I think best because of the present distress: that it is a good thing for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek a separation. Are you free of a wife? Then do not look for a wife. If you marry, however, you do not sin, nor does an unmarried woman sin if she marries; but such people will experience affliction in their earthly life, and I would like to spare you that.

I tell you, brothers, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17

Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear,
forget your people and your father's house.
So shall the king desire your beauty;
for he is your lord, and you must worship him. **R/.**

All glorious is the king's daughter as she enters;
her raiment is threaded with spun gold.
In embroidered apparel she is borne in to the king;
behind her the virgins of her train are brought to you. **R/.**

They are borne in with gladness and joy;



they enter the palace of the king.
The place of your fathers your sons shall have;
you shall make them princes through all the land. *R/.*

Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.”

Reflection

Woe to you who are rich. (Luke 6:24)

Imagine you are a wealthy Jew listening to this small-town rabbi talk about the difference between being rich and being poor. Your crops are flourishing, your herds are increasing each year, your business is doing well. Prosperity is a sign of God’s favor, isn’t it? And yet Jesus is saying, “Blessed are you who are poor. . . . Woe to you who are rich” (Luke 6:20, 24). Is Jesus condemning you for your prosperity?

No. Jesus does not look down on rich people. He was simply saying that wealth can be an obstacle to living a life of loving dependence on your heavenly Father.

Not all of us would fall into the “materially prosperous” category, but anyone can be distracted by money. If we have wealth, we might be lulled into trying to fill ourselves now, to enjoy everything we can now. We might think we can rely on ourselves instead of trusting God to care for the details of our lives. If we are struggling to make ends meet, we might forget that God cares for us now even as he promises an eternal treasure in heaven. We might be fearful to care for the people around us. This is what Jesus was cautioning people about.

God most certainly cares for the rich as much as he does the poor. Jesus is simply exhorting them, and us, to elevate our thinking beyond the here and now. To be generous toward those who have less and to trust God wholeheartedly for what we need. To use our wealth to show those who have less what the Father’s love and care might look like. It’s our preoccupation with selfish desires, our attitude of independence that has no need of God, that grieves him. After all, it’s his nature to bless and satisfy and delight, whether we are rich or poor.

That’s what God wants to do for you today: give you confidence in him. Whatever your financial situation, put your faith in God, not in your current status. He is the only One who can bless you and fill you with joy.

Holy Spirit, line up my views on life and wealth and trust in God with the Father’s perspective.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.