

## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- In our Gospel today...
  - Jesus is pointing out...the division...between two different kingdoms.
    - And I've always had this question...about:
      - *"Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."*
  - Doesn't everything belong to God?
    - I mean...even the silver...on which the coin was minted...
    - it was created by God...out of nothing...so it certainly belongs to Him!
  - And as I prayed about this...
    - the Lord helped me understand...
      - a bit more...on the spiritual level.
    - He took me to what He said...earlier in the Gospel of Matthew (5:40):
      - *"If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, give them your cloak as well"*
  - In truth...all things belong to the Lord...
    - but if someone feels...they have a right to something you have...
    - then perhaps the Lord...wants us to say something like this:
      - *"Take it...take it all in fact.  
But it's not going to help you in the long run.  
What you truly need...I'm also happy to give.  
And that's Jesus Christ...and His saving power."*
- My brothers and sisters...we are up against a kingdom...
  - that is desperately trying to grab...as much of this world's power...as it can.
  - And...
    - whether we're talking about...fallen angels...
    - or fallen people who are too much enamored with the things of this world...
  - the more they take...and the more worldly power they get...
    - the more quickly...their kingdom...begins to fade.
  - Only Jesus Christ...only His Kingdom...only that can eternally endure.
- So I think what the Lord is teaching us today...
  - is that we do have to fight back against this kingdom...
    - but we need to be discerning...
      - about what to fight for.
    - We need to guard and protect...
      - what really matters.
  - So is the shirt on your back...the coin in your pocket...
    - the things of this world...
    - do they really matter?
  - In some sense they do...we need them...
    - and we sure spend a lot of time and energy...fighting for them...

- But don't forget...what Jesus tells us...earlier in the Gospel of Matthew (6:25):
  - *“don't worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?”*
  - He then goes on to say: God Himself will provide.
- Now...
  - that doesn't mean that we quit our jobs...
  - and wait for manna...to just rain down from heaven.
  - Wouldn't that be great!
  - No...we certainly have our part to play...
- But our focus...our energy...our effort..
  - it needs to be on that which eternally endures...
  - and that's the salvation of our souls.
- We're about 7 months...into this pandemic here in Colorado...
  - along with all the limitations...
    - that have been...imposed...upon us...
    - and there's probably a good long way to go.
  - So perhaps it's time...
    - to reflect back on how we've done...
    - and to see if any changes need to made...
    - moving forward.
- So as you think back over your time...
  - How much of your focus...energy and effort...
    - was on the things of this world...
  - And how much of your focus...energy and effort...
    - was on the things of the Lord...
    - on the salvation of souls.
- I think what we learned...early on in the pandemic...on the worldly side of things...
  - is just how important the basics were...
    - things like toilet paper...dish soap...
    - and basic foods like...pasta or canned goods...
    - suddenly...they were very important...
    - and we just couldn't get enough of them.
- But did we learn the same lesson on the spiritual side?
  - How important have the basics...of the spiritual life been for you?
    - Things like confession...or getting to Mass.
  - Did you miss them...when they were not available...
    - And...even with all the limitations...to keep us safe...
    - now that they are available...
    - have you fought to make them...a regular part of you life?

- And did you take my advice...as the shut down was beginning...
  - to turn off Netflix and the News...
  - and to pick up the Rosary...
  - or to pray with the Sunday readings...as a family...instead.
  
- If there's anything we should've learned through this process...
  - it's that the grace we receive in these sacraments...
    - or in our devotional prayer...
    - that's something worth fighting for...
      - and that we cannot take these things for granted...
      - especially now...
      - as the numbers are going up.
  - And are willing to put in the same effort...
    - for them...
      - moving forward...
    - as we did in finding toilet paper...
      - as things were shutting down?
  
- So again...as you look back over these last few months...
  - How much of your focus...energy and effort...
    - was on the things of this world...
  - how much...
    - was on the things of the Lord?
  - And...What would you do differently...
    - if you had to do it...all over again?
  - Because in the coming months...you just might.
  
- But no matter what happens...
  - with COVID...with the Election...
    - or with any of the other uncertainties in this life...
  - let's fight for the basics in our spiritual life...
    - so that we can keep our faith in the Lord...
    - and continue to trust...in His loving plan.