

THE APOSTLE IN OUR SECOND READING, I BELIEVE, ACCURATELY CAPTURES PART OF THE DREAM OF GOD.

IT IS HIS DREAM, HIS HOPE, THAT HIS PEOPLE WILL ACTUALLY TUNE IN TO THE GOOD HE CAN BRING TO US IF ONLY WE TRY TO LISTEN AND PUT HIS HOPE INTO ACTION.

HE ASKS US FIRST TO PRAY AND TO PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

NOT JUST FOR OURSELVES BUT TO GO BEYOND OUR NEEDS TO THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD.

PRAYING FOR A KIND OF PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLES THAT HE HAS CREATED.

HE WANTS EVERYONE TO HEAR HIS WORD AND TO BE SAVED FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM.

GOD HAS A HOPE THAT IN RECOGNIZING HIM,

WE WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY AND NOT TRY TO THWART HIS PLANS FOR US.

PUTTING GOD AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES,

WOULD CHANGE US AND THE WORLD IN WAYS WE NOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE.

BUT THERE ARE TWO THINGS AT WORK IN OUR SCRIPTURE FOR THIS SUNDAY.

THE DREAM OF GOD BUT ALSO THE FAILURE OF BELIEVERS EVEN WHEN WE KNOW BETTER.

IN OUR FIRST READING, SOME WOULD AGREE WITH THE BUSINESS PRACTICES THAT ARE MENTIONED EVEN IF THEY ARE DISHONEST.

FOR IN BUSINESS, THE BOTTOM LINE, THE PROFIT MARGIN CAN BE WHAT MATTERS.

THE WEALTHY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE POOR.

PUTTING MORE VALUE ON THEIR PRODUCTS THAN THEY ARE ACTUALLY WORTH.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, LYING IS JUST PLAIN WRONG.

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HURTS OTHERS OR PUTS PEOPLE DOWN OR PREVENTS THEM FROM HAVING

THE LUXURY OF SOME THINGS THAT ARE NEEDED THAT ONLY A FEW TAKE FOR GRANTED.

AND TO BE PLAIN,

THE ONES WHO CHEAT OTHERS, KNOW THAT IT IS WRONG AND KNOW THAT IT WON 'T STAND THE TEST OF GOD.

BUT MANY LIVE TODAY NOT REALLY THINKING ABOUT THE MOMENT WE FACE GOD AND HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR OUR LIVES.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, IN OUR GOSPEL READING,

JESUS SPEAKS OF SOMETHING ELSE.

IT'S THE VALUE OF BEING TRUSTWORTHY.

NOT BEING TRUSTWORTHY IS ADDED TO THE LIST OF SINS THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY ON PEOPLE'S LISTS OF THINGS THAT ARE WRONG.

OUR LIVES SHOULD REFLECT A HIGHER CALLING FOR OURSELVES.

WE CAN TRUST IN THE LORD AND HE HAS SHOWN TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT HE CAN BE TRUSTED.

AND OUR LIVES, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE,

SHOULD REFLECT THE FAITH WE HOLD IN GOD THAT WE SHOW BY OUR ACTIONS.

IN LARGE MATTERS AS WELL AS SMALL,

WHAT ARE OUR MOTIVES?

THINKING OF OURSELVES OR THINKING, AGAIN, OF THE DREAM THAT GOD HOLDS.

THE STEWARD CHEATING THE MASTER THOUGHT HE WAS VERY CLEVER.

THAT IS, UNTIL HE GOT CAUGHT.

AND EVEN THOUGH, AT THE LAST MINUTE HE KNEW HOW TO PROTECT HIMSELF I'M SURE FROM THAT TIME ONWARD NO ONE WOULD TRUST HIM COMPLETELY.

FOR HIS OWN PROFIT, HE GAVE UP HIS GOOD NAME.

AGAIN, ALL GOING AGAINST THE DREAM OF GOD.

GOD, HOPING THAT ALL PEOPLE THAT HE CREATED WOULD LOOK TOWARD HIM FIRST IN ALL OF OUR DEALINGS IN THE WORLD.

LOOKING BEYOND OUR OWN NEED OR THE FAKE WORLD THAT WE THINK SHOULD GOVERN ALL
ACTIONS.

BECAUSE WE WILL DISCOVER, SOONER OR LATER,

THE WORLD THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF GOD.

AFTER GOD CREATED THE WORLD HE LOOKED AT IT AND SAID THAT IT IS GOOD.

BUT SO OFTEN WE FORGET WHOSE WORLD WE ARE LIVING IN.

THE END OF THE GOSPEL PASSAGE WE HAVE TODAY SUMS IT ALL UP.

WE CAN'T LIVE IN TWO WORLDS.

WE'LL EITHER HATE ONE OR LOVE THE OTHER.