

TUESDAY Week 9B

First Reading: 2 Pet 3: 12-15a, 17-18;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 112: 1-2, 7-8, 9;

Gospel Reading: Mark 12.13-17.

THEME: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

We are presented with controversial issues in the readings. The question is why does God allow Satan and his followers to test good people? To this question St. Peter, the first pope, advised that, “Your enemy the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Pet 5: 8). Christ encountered followers of the Devil. Jesus Christ, the Lord of the truth and wisdom, answered a tricky question skillfully. If Jesus said YES to the question of the Pharisees and Herodians, it meant he was a traitor to the Jews who hated the Romans for ruling them and forcing them to pay taxes. If he said NO, it meant Jesus was an enemy of Rome and a political trouble-maker.

Jesus stated, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” This answer of Jesus Christ is often seriously misunderstood to mean Jesus Christ is dividing the world into the secular and the sacred. Jesus Christ was not saying a ruler has power/kingdom independent of God’s kingdom. His guiding principle was, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all shall be added” (Mt 6: 33).

What is God’s? The things that belong to God include life, health, intelligence, relatives, material things, time, etc. As CREATOR, God deserves praise, honor, and thanks from all including rulers. All rulers and all of us are tools of God. What we have and even what the king/kingdom have belong to God. We are to use them to support the Church’s activities. They are activities for God. To God alone be glory, honor, and power forever and ever.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor