

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



March 2, 2014

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 82

Gospel [mt 6:24-34](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: “No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

Spiritual Reflections

The phrase “All these things pagans seek...” should jump out at us as reminder that to be Christian is to be different. If we are truly Christians then we should have a different mindset of what is important and what is not. Worrying about “living longer”, clothes, food and drink, etc. leads to conflicts which steal away the happiness of the present moment. The Lord encourages us to rather trust in the Father’s love and to love others in the present moment.

Spiritual Questions

1. Why do people put so much effort into adding moments to their life span?
2. Why do people fight over food and drink?
3. Why do people argue over what to wear?
4. What does God think about these things?
5. Who are you serving and who are you going to serve?