

First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. 9:16-19 22-27. Luke 6:39-42

The word that came to my mind as I read today's Reading and Gospel was. 'Motivation.' Motivation is what drives us forward. It is the physical powerhouse of our being. It can lead us for good, but it can also lead us to destruction! Motivation is productive where it is guided and the only one sure source of guidance is from God.

The motivation for Paul's mission came from a passionate desire to fulfil the responsibility and duty laid on him to proclaim the Good News. This duty and responsibility was not motivated by a need to please others or to gain earthly wealth but by a choice to be, "All things to all men in order to save some at any cost: for the sake of the Gospel and to have a share in its blessing." Like an athlete who wants to win the prize, Paul also runs. He too is intent on winning and, to do so he, 'treats his body hard and makes it obey him.'

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel that, like Paul, we have a duty and responsibility to serve others. This is the message of love and is to be our motivation also. Jesus therefore cautions us not to judge others without first looking at our own faults and failings. Our actions must be out of the eye of love. We are to, 'Take the plank out of our own eye first, in order to be able to help/guide our brothers and sisters who have a splinter in theirs.'