

Ephesians 1: 11-14

Luke 12: 1-7

What a gift! Are you ever in awe of a lovely sunrise, a poem, act of kindness or other significant experience? Something that stimulates the senses and gives inspiration? Yet the same thing may not be appreciated in a similar way by another. Often, we need to be inspired to fully appreciate what is in front of us. I think that this fact is brought out in today's Reading and echoed in the Gospel in terms of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Paul says, "It is in Christ that we were claimed as God's own.....chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came....You too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise.....which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised." In other words, you have been inspired by what you know and can see for yourselves. It is the message that we hear in the Psalm. "They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own."

Just as Paul is trying to tell the Ephesians to appreciate what God has revealed to them through the Holy Spirit, so Jesus says, "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees – that is, their hypocrisy" All false teaching or example that can lead us away from 'seeing' fully." Continue in the power of the Holy Spirit. "Everything now hidden will be made clear....Whatever you have whispered in hidden places will be proclaimed on the housetops." Do not be afraid (Be inspired) ...Can you not buy five sparrows for two pennies? (Simple sacrificial gifts) And yet not one is forgotten in God's sight. There is no need to be afraid: you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows."

So, again, be inspired and keep looking!