

1 Timothy 6: 2-12

Psalm 48

Luke 8: 1-3

Today St Paul is giving some strict and specific instructions to Timothy. He says, “This is what you are to teach the brothers to believe and persuade them to do.” He is adamant that they should follow ‘sound’ teaching..... “The doctrine which is that of the Lord Jesus Christ.” This cannot be refuted. Those who question and argue about words are set to cause uncertainty and division. There is no profit in deviation from Christ’s teaching. It is only those, “Who are content with what they have,” that gain any profit.

Paul’s words are still echoed even in the largely secular society that we have today. “We brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it.” “People who long to be rich are a prey to temptation.” “The love of money is the root of all evils.” “But, as a man (or woman) dedicated to God, you must avoid all that.” And, “Fight the good fight of the Faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called.”

The Responsorial Psalm reinforces Paul’s words, reflecting in the response, “How happy are the poor in spirit. (Those who follow the word of God); theirs is the Kingdom of God.” Alleluia, alleluia! Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord. Alleluia!

Finally. What does it mean to listen to and follow his voice? The answer lies in the Gospel Reading: To follow the example of those who knew and had personally received the Word into their hearts. The Apostles, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Suzanna, and several others, ‘who provided for them out of their own resources.’