

Reflection for Saturday 7 November

In this morning's Gospel reading Jesus says, "You cannot be the slave both of God and money." For some this is a hard saying in this second lockdown when their jobs are at risk or they might be earning less money. They have large financial commitments: mortgages, loans to pay, etc. Money is important.

But Jesus is not saying that. He understands our situation. Previously in that Gospel reading he says, "No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn." It is a question of where our heart lies there will our treasure be. We have to get our priorities right. Do we put God and money on the same level of importance? He is saying we must take a good look at ourselves and ask which are our priorities?

God ought to be our priority because as Christians we believe that he knows and can see us as we really are. He knows our needs and our faith in him will carry us through every aspect of our lives. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talks about the kingdom of God, not an earthly kingdom with boundaries, but an eternal kingdom in in our hearts and lives which is built out of the grace of God working us. In that kingdom we have different values from earthly ones. Peace, love joy, forgiveness are kingdom gifts. This means that earthly things, which are important, are seen in relation to those eternal kingdom gifts, and they include things like money.

We are kingdom people. The priorities in our lives are those eternal gifts that Jesus showed. Our lives then should show forth the gifts of the kingdom.

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