

## Reflection for Saturday 19 June

Today's Gospel reading is again from St Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount.

In it Jesus is telling us that we cannot serve both God and money. It is God whom we should be the one we serve because he is in charge of us and ultimately of the world in which we live. Being solely concerned about material things only brings us a lot of worry, over most of which in the end we have little control.

Then Jesus tells us that we should look to nature and see how it behaves. Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow seeds or gather into barns but they never go without. God looks after them. Again, look at the flowers, they do not work or spin. Look again at their beauty even King Solomon in all his regalia was not as handsome as some of them.

Jesus then reminds us that we are worth a lot more in God's eyes than the birds and the things of nature. He looks after them. Surely he will look after us. We should not be worried about our material things as if they are all that exists in our lives. It is God and his kingdom that should be our priority in life.

You might be thinking that God wants us to be irresponsible in not caring about our physical selves.

That is not what he is saying. Of course we have look after ourselves and our families. Of course money is important. It is a question of priorities. Jesus says we should set our hearts on the kingdom of God and all these other things will come. God knows what we need.

The kingdom of God is not a geographical area but those parts of our lives over which God reigns supreme. What are the kingdom qualities? They are joy: it is more than human emotion. It comes from our relationship with God knowing that whatever happens on the surface of our lives we have that bedrock which is God. Nothing can separate us from him and his love for us. We are people of peace. True peace is a gift from God that cannot be contrived. We have peace in ourselves because we are close to God and trying to do his will for us. We try and show peace in our relationship with others by trying to take the heat out of difficult situations. We are people of forgiveness. Jesus teaches us in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We cannot expect

God to forgive us our failings if we are not prepared to forgive others for the wrongs they do against us.

If we are people of the kingdom we should not worry about things which might not happen. We should concentrate on things of today. If we do worry unnecessarily we need to tell God about what is troubling us and ask for his help. Jesus says each day has enough trouble of its own.

St Matt. Chapter 6: vs 24-34.

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