

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, Jesus tells us today, that we cannot serve two masters...we cannot serve God and serve mammon. Mammon was the god of wealth and prosperity. It is the false god that we build in our lives when we have skewed our priorities in life. Jesus tells us today, to put our priorities in life, rightly: our relationship with God must come first! Jesus does not give us a third way: there are only two paths in life: one leads us closer to God as Father and to Christ motivated by their Holy Spirit; or, the other path leads us away from Christ and into a life of selfishness and self-concern. We cannot be morally neutral and sit on the fence like the woo woo bird, whose posterior is set so close to the ground that when he takes off, he drags his posterior on the rocks and screams: woo woo, woo woo!

Either we will live in selfishness, or we will live in the Divine Providence of God's super abundant love for us. Either we live, trusting in God's Divine Goodness, and living lives of generous thanksgiving; or, we live in ever increasing self-concern to the exclusion of everything else. If we do so, we actually contribute to the culture of indifference to God and to our brothers and sisters in the world, indifference to the Church, and contribute to the despair of the culture of selfishness and despair we now see at work in the world and the society around us! Our lord of life becomes, not the Lord Jesus Christ, but mammon, who is Satan.

On the other hand, when we live in Christ, and for Christ, and with Christ, in the assurance of His Divine Goodness, Mercy and Love, His Divine Providence for us, we begin to live lives of generosity and love; we begin to live in His Kingdom. Those who think they don't have to make this choice of paths are living lives of self-delusion! Our Christian life is a series of ongoing decisions, which either erode our life in Christ for others, or reinforce our choice to follow Christ and serve others!

A basic question tells us how we are living our lives: do we squander the gifts that God has given us in our time, our talents and our treasure; or, are we becoming more generous and self-giving of our time, our talents and our treasure. Am I giving? In the Eucharist we celebrate every day, the total self-giving of Jesus, of

our God to us, in the eternal mystery of the Cross, from which we receive the total self-giving of Jesus in His true Body, Blood, soul and Divinity! What is your response?

There is an old story that illustrates this teaching: a chicken and a pig, saw a starving man. The Chicken said, I'll give him one of my eggs; why don't you give him some ham. The pig said, you're asking me to give everything, while you give him merely an inconvenience and a couple of clucks! So, what is your attitude in giving?