



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

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For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 6:21

This week's scripture begins where it left off last week, Christ's teaching on possessions: the culture of scarcity leading to greed, which is always self-defeating. Fear of scarcity leads to lust and *idolatry*, committed when one *projects onto a mortal object a power the object does not have*. This dominates consciousness, "hand to mouth" "paycheck to paycheck" is prone to lead daily to anxiety and with it a constant concern for survival.

Jesus alternatively offers us a path to a spirituality of abundance: "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" where we come to live life as a gift as we take on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We come to see life as "*Barakah*" which is the wisdom that all life is gift. Coming into this consciousness through Lectio Divina of the Gospel our life unfolds over time from the inside into an outpouring wellspring of life in abundance. Once we intentionally encounter through Lectio Divina the mystical interior life of Christ we see that He is a bountiful giver, and once this is revealed to us, we naturally become life for others. This illumination creates within us a generative discipleship where we become the channel of outpouring grace, an inexhaustible bounty for others. Look no further than the saintly examples of superabundant outpouring of the lives of St. John Vianney, Blessed Solanus Casey and St. Philip Neri, etc.

Jesus, having preached this lesson, extends the conversation to that of stewardship, which is the natural continuum of the life of a generative disciple. "*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.*" Luke 12:48 What awakens within the illuminated generative disciple is the reality of life flowing from the Father in abundance, and that as we are given this abundance we are called, in turn, to pour out that which has been given. This is a profound realization that our life is "*barakah - gift.*" This sense of "*givenness*" we realize is entrusted to us in order that it increase in the outpouring. In other words, as God increases within us, and we decrease (see John 3:30 "*He must increase; I must decrease.*") there is more life for us and others. This is the lived reality of stewardship.

Reflect on the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God, the River of Life through the wonder and awe of our Kairos Moments. Intentional life in the Kingdom is passed on from the graciousness of the Father that we, in turn, through the incarnate reality of the Mystical Body of Christ as it perfects within us, outpours into the world. This lived Eucharistic reality is the love that binds us to our community as we offer bread for the world, a world that hungers.

"The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world."

John 6:51

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples,

*"Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,
an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

*"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;
be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet,
so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.
Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes;
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat,
and he will come and serve them."*

*"If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so,
blessed are those servants.*

*"But know this:
if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into. "*

*"You also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."*

Peter said,

"Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?"

And the Lord said,

*"Who then is the faithful and prudent manager
whom his master will put in charge of his servants,
to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant
whom his master will find at work when he arrives.
Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.
But if that servant says to himself,
'My master is delayed in coming,'
and if he begins to beat the other servants, men and women,
and to eat and drink and get drunk,
the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him
and at an hour that he does not know,
and will cut him in pieces,
and put him with the unfaithful."*

*"That servant who knew what his master wanted,
but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted,
will receive a severe beating.
But the one who did not know
and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating."*

*"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required;
and from the one to whom much has been entrusted,
even more will be demanded."*