

XV Trinity 2022
Sermon – Saint Joseph Parish
Father Craig Looney
St. Matthew 6.24-34



Money...they say...is the root of all evil. Although often quoted and attributed to the Bible...nowhere in the Scriptures does it ever say money is the root of all evil. What exactly do the Scriptures say about money?

In the Book of Ecclesiastes we are told he who loves money will never be satisfied with money or what he earns from his investments. He will always want more. (*Ecclesiastes 5.10*)

In the Book of Proverbs we are told not to spend so much time trying to become wealthy. Our wealth is only temporary. Whatever we set our eyes on will soon be gone. (*Proverbs 23.4-5*)

The Psalmist writes our real trust should be in God...not in our material possessions. We should trust in the loving kindness of God forever. (*Psalms 52.7-8*)

The writer of Hebrews tells us we must keep our character free from the love of money; God Himself has said he will never desert or forsake us. (*Hebrews 13.5*)

Our friend Paul doesn't mince words when he wrote to Timothy and we need to pay attention to what he says...we are made truly rich by our faith in Jesus Christ. We should be happy with what we have...for the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. (*1 Timothy 6.9*)

And we should all recognize these words from the Prayer Book Burial Office...*"For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."* (*1 Timothy 6.7*)

This morning's Gospel is about God and our material possessions. Jesus tells us we can't serve two masters; we will either hate the one and love the other; we will be devoted to one and despise the other. We cannot serve God and wealth.

We need to be very clear Jesus is not saying money and material possessions are bad things. Money and material possessions are not bad things. They are gifts from God. The question Jesus is asking us to consider is in

whom...or what...do we place our trust. What Jesus is saying is we need to be careful our material possessions...or anything else...don't become our gods.

Jesus tells us we spend too much time in the Worry Department. A cursory glance at the Internet gives us plenty of things to worry about if we set our minds to it...inflation, global warming, wars, homelessness, politics, Covid-19 and violence. And many of us worry about what new challenges tomorrow will bring.

Jesus tells us we shouldn't spend so much time worrying...especially about things we have little or no control over...like tomorrow! We have enough things to keep us busy today...and those are the things we need to focus on.

If we spend too much time worrying about what might happen tomorrow...or next week...or next year...we miss out on opportunities to enjoy the things of today.

Jesus told the crowd who had come to hear him to take a look at the flowers growing around them on the hillside...take a look at the birds flying in the air. God provides the sun and rain the flowers need to grow and they produce the seeds the birds need for food.

Jesus tells us as beautiful as flowers and birds are, human beings are worth more and God takes care of our needs. We should not repay his love and care with worry and anxiety! That means we really don't trust him.

God wants us to have the money and material things we need in order to live comfortable lives. It's OK to use the money and material things we have to plan for a vacation or retirement. In this way we are honoring God by using the money and material things he has given us wisely.

If we're looking to become truly wealthy...we need to listen to what Jesus is telling us. He is asking us to do what he does...trust in God to take care of our needs.

The time to place our trust in God is now. Yesterday is gone...and it's too soon to worry about tomorrow!

