

This weekend closes our short season of Ordinary Time

Ash Wednesday is this week

And then we have 6 weeks of Lent and 6 weeks of Easter

Before returning to Ordinary Time

This year this first period of Ordinary Time had a special focus

The Sermon on the Mount

And our Gospel today is no exception

It continues to help us learn how to live this teaching of Christ

How we need to trust in God

In all things

And at all times

For most of us, this is a challenge

Because it calls us to put our trust in what we cannot see

It is one of Satan's tricks to trust in the material

What we can see feel and touch

It was one he used on our first parents

Trust in what you can see

The attractive but forbidden fruit

Forget about God who is out of sight

The problem is when we make things our god

When we serve mammon

That unbalanced search for money, power, pleasure

We become slaves

When it is God we serve

We are stewards

We serve Him in freedom

God knows what we need

When we serve Him, all be ours

And at our service

This was a temptation the Israelites faced

They had God's covenant

They had His promise to their fathers

Abraham, Noah, Isaac, David

But they now turned away from God

And thought He had turned from them

That He had forgotten them

They are comforted and reassured with Isaiah's words

Can a mother forget her infant?

But even if she should forget

I will never forget you

The feeling they are abandoned is only a temporary feeling

Not a fact

Something He would prove time and again down the ages

We get locked in on what we don't have

Or what it seems we are lacking

We then can only see what is in front of us

And fall into the temptation that this is what is real

That old trick of Satan

So Christ asks us today

Which will you serve?

God or mammon?

It is about choices and priorities in our lives

God knows what we need in life

He is not naïve about the human condition

And he is not telling us to forget everything

Just kick back and trust in God

Don't bother working

Don't bother with clothes

Don't bother cooking

God will provide if I just trust enough

That is also a sin

He calls us to build His kingdom

And you don't build something sitting by in idleness

You build it by getting to work

Confident that He is watching over us

Using what He provides to take care of ourselves and our families

Using the talents He has given us

Living the prayer of the beatitudes

The Our Father

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

We are more precious to God than any other creature

The lilies are not made in his image

The birds of the air are not in the likeness of God

These are gifts to us

Robins and flowers that are the promise of springtime

God's love for each of us is a personal love

Deeper than the love of a mother for the child of her womb

Even when it seems He has turned his back

When we have to suffer through a difficult illness

An accident

When a loved one passes

When a marriage comes apart at the seams

His grace is there for us

One day at a time

Like the Israelites gathering manna in the desert

Each day they collected what was needed

Where do we place our trust?

God or mammon?

A ship can have only one captain

A heart can have only one love

Is my work only about the salary?

Are my friends and family potential clients or contacts?

Do I do social events to network into a better situation or job?

Am I here today to be seen?

We can even use our faith to get a foot up

Using God as a supernatural insurance policy

Just in case this or that doesn't work out

But if God is our center

All these things

Our families

Our homes

Our work

Our faith

These accompany us on this walk through this life

Trusting in God

Not full of anxiety

Not worrying about what we need in this life

But full of confidence

Living and trusting in Jesus Christ

Planning for the future

Trusting in His providence

That He is present in our joyful moments

And in our darkest times

What is my identity?

Do I wish to be free or a slave?

God or mammon?

It is a choice we make today

It is a choice we make each moment

We will close with the simple prayer of Divine Mercy

Jesus, I trust in you