

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY: 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12:20-21

"Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"

So it is when someone stores up treasure for himself instead of becoming rich in the sight of God.

In our first reading and the gospel we get what appears to be a **strong call against storing earthly treasures** for ourselves. In the first reading man's labour is seen as vanity especially because after all the hard work, he leaves behind what he has worked for. In the gospel, that man who had a great harvest is referred to as a fool. This is because the good life he had imagined ahead of him was not to materialize since he was to die that very same night and leave everything behind.

We may be tempted to think that the message from these readings is against working, and earning, and investing. This may appear to contradict the teaching of St Paul, "let not anyone eat who refused to work" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). What the Church celebrates on the feast of St Joseph the Worker (May 1) seems to be also contradicted. On that day we celebrate the dignity of our labour and the significance of a just wage.

The end of our gospel passage, "so it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God" (Luke 12:21), **gives us an indication of the true richness in God's eyes.** The whole of our second reading calls us to look for things that are in heaven where Christ is.

Our spiritual richness can never make us selfish. Our attitude towards material things should be that of sharing our earnings with others. This begins in our own families when we invest towards educating our young ones. Today we enjoy many material benefits that were left behind by those who cared to share their material benefits with the next generations. We are called to do the same, leave something good for our future generations. We are also called to currently share our material benefits with those in need and the less privileged. There is no room for selfishness in our attitude towards material things, but our call is to work for the common good of others

May Almighty God bless you the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful day Sunday

Fr Callistus