

Stewardship Moment

August 19, 2012

Lay readers: Kathy Zimmerman (8:30 am) and Sandy Nesselrode (11:00 am)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks to us about trust. He assures us of His Father's love demonstrated in His care for His creation. We are told not to worry. Everything will be properly provided at the needed time.

Satan tempts us daily with our fear of need. He tells us that it is we ourselves who must prosper to have the things we need. We feel the pressure to accumulate. Satan would have us look inward for our strength and well being. It is up to us to achieve contentment and happiness.

Satan also helps us forget. We know that money can buy a house, but we forget that it cannot give us a home. We know that money can buy companionship, but we forget that it cannot give us a friend. We know that money can buy medicine, but we forget that it cannot give us health. We know that money can buy stocks, bonds and securities, but we forget that it cannot give us peace, contentment and happiness. And most damaging to our faith, Satan would have us believe that money can buy the "good life," but forget that money cannot give us eternal life.

It can become easy for our priorities to become confused. First comes mortgage or rent, living expenses, investments, retirement accounts, and recreation. Then, if God leaves us with anything additional that we have earned, we will "happily" give it back to Him. It thus becomes very easy to store up treasures for this world.

As recorded in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Jesus said,

That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single day to his span of life? And why worry about clothing?

Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass of the fields which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith. So do not worry; do not say, "What shall we eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. (The Jerusalem Bible)