

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 26, 2017

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST'S WORD



Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples: "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are not you more important than they?

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?

Why are you anxious about clothes?

Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin.

But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them.

If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you,

O you of little faith?

So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek.

Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.

Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 26, 2017

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST'S WORD



BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL

The Sunday Gospel reading is from part three of the Sermon on the Mount's three-part instruction by Jesus on the way of life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Part three deals with trusting God and performing deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

The Aramaic word *mammon* does not have a negative connotation. It means "property" or "money." What Matthew is pointing out is that since human beings are not self-sufficient, we are dependent on something outside ourselves. It should be God, not the material goods we own. This is not to say that we don't need material goods. But the reading goes on to remind us not to be anxious. Look at the beauty of nature. The birds do not sow or reap. The flowers do not work or spin cloth.

Yet they are provided for by God. Human beings are worth much more than these. How could God not provide for us as well? If what we place first in our lives is God's kingdom and his justice, we will have what we need.

Matthew concludes by reminding us to address each day's problems as they come, confident that we are in God's loving care. He is a loving father who holds the whole world in his hands. He will certainly care for us.