

Week 9 - November 18, 2020

Today's reflection looks at two of Jesus' public teachings on God the Father's relationship with us. God provides for everything in nature, taking care of the plants and the animals, so if we are more valuable to God than the animals and plants, how much more will he take care of us? If God made us, then we are valuable parts of his creation.

The Gospel of Matthew 5, Verses 13 - 16

[Jesus taught] "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

The Gospel of Matthew 6, Verses 25 - 30

"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?

Reflection

Jesus says people are like “the salt of the earth.” Salt is something that adds flavor to food. What does Jesus mean by this? What way are we like salt for the earth in the eyes of God?

Jesus says that we are the “light of the world” and that light is meant to be on a lampstand and not hidden under a basket. Why does light belong on the lampstand and not covered under a basket? What are ways we can be a light of the world without hiding our light under a basket?

How do our good deeds glorify God?

Jesus tells us not to worry about food and clothing, and says there is more to life than food and clothing. What are the more important parts of life than our necessities?

Why does Jesus tell us not to worry about material things?

How does God take care of the flowers, the birds, and the grass? How does he take care of us?

Re-read the gospel and reflect on Jesus’ words about how God cares for his creation, and the role we play in God’s creation. As you read it again, think about ways God has provided for you and way your good deeds can glorify God. Finally, pray the Serenity prayer.

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world*

*As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.
Amen.*