

Children of the King

Homily Resource for Christ The King Sunday

November 20, 2011

If Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives we will be concerned with being a loyal subject of His kingdom. Here are some characteristics of a Christ-directed life.

Value temperance - care most about using created goods for God's glory and the benefit of others.

Live out of our dignity as children of God - stand up for others ie., unborn, elderly, the poor.

Are greatly concerned with conduct and strive to be an example for others. ("Be Imitators of me as I am of Christ" 1 Cor 11:1, also "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, **conduct**, love, faith, and purity." 1 Timothy 4:12)

Are willing to be meek and able to make great sacrifices for the Kingdom of God. (Power in weakness see 2 Corinthians 12: 10) Jesus looked helpless and powerless on the cross but in reality He was redeeming us. When we are put in situations where we feel ostracized or alone it may not "feel" good but God's grace can be at work doing great things.

Here is a paragraph from Pope Benedict XVI's recent visit to Benin. It speaks eloquently how the Lord and His mercy sometimes "redirects us, sometimes not without pain, affliction or fear on our part, to the path of truth and light, for he does not wish us to be lost (cf. Mt 18:14; Jn 3:16)."

As we praise God for the marvels which he never ceases to bestow upon humanity, I invite you to meditate for a moment on his infinite mercy. The history of salvation, which culminates in the incarnation of Jesus and finds its fulfilment in the Paschal Mystery, is a radiant revelation of the mercy of God. In the Son, the "Father of mercies" (2 *Cor* 1:3) is made visible; ever faithful to his fatherhood, he "leans down to each prodigal child, to each human misery, and above all to their moral misery, to their sins" (John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 6). Divine mercy consists not only in the remission of our sins; it also consists in the fact that God, our Father, redirects us, sometimes not without pain, affliction or fear on our part, to the path of truth and light, for he does not wish us to be lost (cf. *Mt* 18:14; *Jn* 3:16). This double expression of divine mercy shows how faithful God is to the covenant sealed with each Christian in his or her baptism. Looking back upon the personal history of each individual and of the evangelization of our countries, we can say together with the Psalmist, "I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, for ever" (*Ps* 88:1).

Have a blessed week and a blessed Thanksgiving!

In Christ

Fr. Jim Northrop