

Sunday Readings Reflections of 9/27/15

Reading 1 Numbers 11:25-29

Just as people sometimes envy their neighbor's possessions, they may also envy the spiritual gifts of others. This story about Moses is a wonderful example of a religious leader who wanted to share his gift of prophecy with many others. However, some of the Israelites are jealous of Moses' gift. They want it to be kept by the privileged few. Moses tells them that he wishes the Lord would bestow his spirit on all the Israelites.

We can follow the example of Moses by sharing our gifts generously in the Church, and by avoiding any envy of those whose gifts may appear to be greater than our own.

Reading 2 James 5:1-6

Once again Saint James is warning Christians about practicing the faith they profess. The rich who crave for expensive possessions and store up wealth for themselves should fear God's judgment. Those who gained their wealth by cheating their workers should weep and repent. James compares those who live in selfish luxury with calves fattened for the slaughter.

This harsh warning needs to be heard by all Christians who live in a materialistic society. We are not to steal from or cheat others of a just wage. Whatever money and possessions we have are to be shared with those in need. By doing so, we "store up riches in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).

Gospel Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Like Moses before him, Jesus wants God's healing power to be shared by as many as possible. When a disciple complains about a man who is healing in Jesus' name but who is not one of their company, Jesus assures him, "Anyone who is not against us is with us." Doing good is not to be restricted to an exclusive few. Giving good example to the "little ones" or those of simple faith will be rewarded. Anyone who leads them astray deserves punishment.

Since our hands, our feet, and our eyes can lead us into sin, we are to use them in ways that honor God's Kingdom of love, justice, and peace. By doing so, we help to make God's reign visible in our midst.

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