

The Third Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 6:22-33

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

Today's Gospel provides the firmest foundation and direction for daily life. Believers are to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. All thoughts and daily efforts are to be consistent with this goal.

Thoughts and efforts are to be measured against the goals of seeking God's Kingdom and His righteousness. Thoughts or efforts inconsistent with these goals are to be rejected.

God gives believers hearts, minds and souls requiring care and nourishment. The goals chosen and pursued in life determine if the heart, mind and soul are nourished and given care.

The Gospel assures believers the needs of life will be met when God's Kingdom and righteousness are life's foremost interest. The Gospel uses the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as examples of God's care and wonders.

Placing faith in God is essential for believers. The present Gospel emphasizes the importance of personal faith in God. The Church affirms and proclaims the importance of faith. Church history witnesses to the enduring lessons of faith.

The Gospel nourishes personal faith. The known words of Jesus Christ exist in the Gospel and have life-changing power. The words of Jesus Christ nourish and strengthen attentive believers.

The Gospel penetrates believers' hearts, minds and souls. Believers gathering in worship in the Church strengthen each other's faith. Partaking of Christ's Body and Blood empowers believers for life's journey to the Kingdom.

The length of life's journey is uncertain for each person. The Psalmist indicates that earthly life expectancy generally is 70 to 80 years (Ps. 89/90:10). Some people live much longer. Some individuals depart this life well before the age of 70.

The present Gospel puts life in perspective for believers. The believer's eye is to focus on the Lord God. Care of the soul is of utmost importance. Where the believer will spend eternity is determined by life's goals and efforts.

Believers choose the way to live daily. Following the Lord God is a complete and free choice. God helps believers through the uncertain and difficult periods of life when faith remains firm.

When faith is challenged by unexpected events in life, the present Gospel serves as a beacon of light and hope. The Light of Christ is always present. Hope in Jesus Christ always is the wisest choice.

Personal faith will be challenged and tested when difficult situations arise in life strongly affecting the heart, mind and soul. God is always present and within immediate reach.

Believers looking carefully with believing eyes and attentive ears will see and experience God's reassuring presence. The present Gospel provides the certainty of God's loving care.

When the unexpected occurs, the present Gospel is firmly present to remind believers to look for and listen to the loving, caring God. God is the Light in the darkest moments of life.

God is Love and Joy even in moments of great suffering. Saints and martyrs witnessed to Jesus Christ in joy when being tortured. Christ's love fills and heals hurting hearts, minds and souls.

When the heart, mind and soul experience deep hurt, direct prayer to God opens the path to healing, hope and renewal. The Kingdom of God stands formidably against all the obstacles in life.

In life's darkest hours, the Kingdom of God is the Light summoning believers to press-on in life. Troubled waters in life are smoothed by the Healing Jesus Christ.

Hunger in the soul is completely nourished only by the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's Gospel is proclaimed each year for believers. Believers learn and relearn each year to place full and complete trust in the living, loving God.

The Third Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Wonderworker Unmercenaries
Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs. June 30/July 14, 2024. Hidden Valley,
Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic