Saturday of the Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Lk* 16:9-15): Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant 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.”

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all these things and sneered at him. And he said to them, “You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God.”

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones"

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Today Jesus speaks again with authority: He uses the phrase "I tell you," which has a unique power, of a new doctrine. God “wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (cf. 1 Tim 2:4). He wants us to be holy and today he points out some necessary points for us to attain holiness and be in possession of "the truth": faithfulness in small things, authenticity, and never losing sight of the fact that God knows our hearts.

Faithfulness in small things is within our reach. Our days are usually shaped by what we call "normalcy": the same job, the same people, certain devotional practices, the same family...It is in these ordinary realities that we must fulfill ourselves as people and grow in holiness. "The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones" (Lk 16:10). It is necessary to do all things well, with a right intention, with the desire to please God, our Father; doing things out of love has great value and prepares us to receive "the truth." How beautifully Saint Josemaría expressed it! "Have you seen how that imposing building was built? One brick upon another. Thousands. But, one by one. And bags of cement, one by one. And blocks of stone, each of them insignificant compared with the massive whole. And beams

of steel. And men working, the same hours, day after day…Have you seen how that imposing building was built?… By dint of little things!”

Examining our conscience well each night will help us to live with rectitude of intention and never lose sight of the fact that God sees everything, even the most hidden thoughts, as we learned in catechism, and that the important thing is to please God in everything, our Father, whom we must serve out of love, keeping in mind that "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other." (Lk 16:13). Let us never forget: "Only God is God" (Benedict XVI).

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- "Pay much attention to small things" (Saint Pedro Poveda)

- "Like any technical instrument, money does not have a neutral value, but acquires value based on the aims and circumstances in which it is used." (Francis)

- "A theory that makes profit the exclusive norm and ultimate end of economic activity is morally unacceptable. The disordered desire for money cannot but produce perverse effects. It is one of the causes of the many conflicts which disturb the social order. A system that "subordinates the basic rights of individuals and of groups to the collective organization of production" is contrary to human dignity. Every practice that reduces persons to nothing more than a means of profit enslaves man, leads to idolizing money, and contributes to the spread of atheism. "You cannot serve God and mammon" (Lk 16,13).” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n 2424)