

Message – Seek good, hate evil, bring or encourage justice

Let's pray: Merciful Father, let your living and active word discern now, through Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

According to our gospel reading, a man ran to Jesus, and asked him "what must I do to inherit eternal life? But this man was disappointed in the answer Jesus gave, that he should go and do one thing he lacked. That is "to go, sell what he has and give to the poor, and he will have treasure in heaven; then come back to follow him."

What might be your big question for Jesus if you are to meet Jesus face to face today? Imagine Jesus is looking at you with this loving clarity, is there one thing he might say you lacked?

As a people, as well as individuals, we are called to be generous and good, we are also called on to seek justice for the poor and the marginalised. Generosity, goodness and the pursuit of justice, at least according to the prophet Amos, these are the very stuff of holiness.

Amos says that we are to 'hate evil and love good and establish justice in the gate,' he also says that the needy are never to be marginalised or 'pushed aside.' The prophecy of Amos and the story of the Rich Young Ruler must be for us real, living and contemporary stories; stories that invite us to reflect on the orientation of our own hearts and to follow the path of true holiness, that we should think about the vulnerable, the needy and the poor in our society, in our community or neighbourhood have to be helped out. Must be taking care of. This is what God expects from us, and it releases God's blessing- healing and protection (Isaiah 58:7-9a)

Throughout Christian history there have been many stories of men, women and communities that have stepped out in faith, throwing off all false notions of worldly security. The fact is that these men, women and communities have been the real game changers. We can think of:

Mother Theresa -founded the Order of the Missionaries Charity; the Roman Catholic Congregation of Women, dedicated to the poor.

Chiara Lubich -founded the Focolare Movement, aims to bring unit among people.
St. Laurence -Was one of the Roman Martyrs; Was Patron Saint of the poor & cooks.

Francis of Assisi -cared for the poor & sick.

As a church, and as individuals, and God's people, we need to follow their example; we need to understand that God will be the great provider as we seek to love good and establish justice for the poor, helping the marginalised and caring for the needy.

Be-lovers in Christ, let also be aware of the revelation from Jesus as he was answering the rich man; that when you give to the poor, you are actually building your treasure in heaven. So let hate evil, let us love, let us seek good and encourage justice for the poor, the homeless, the hungry or the needy. And by so doing we unlocked God's blessing- protection, good health or healing upon our life or a treasure in heaven, Amen!