

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gospel reading of today invites us to grow daily in the knowledge of God's goodness and love. It invites us also to increase our trust in him and trust less in the power of money and possessions.

We spend most of our life procuring what we need for ourselves or for our family: food, clothes, house and so on.

As human beings we must earn our living and work our passage through life.

Again, evidently any responsible person would want to make provision for the future. It is wise for a person to think ahead, so we make investments and we buy insurance policies and what have you.

But Jesus in the gospel reading tells us that we should not worry about life, what we will eat or drink or wear. He goes on to tell us not to worry about tomorrow.

In fact, what Jesus is telling us is that in our attempt to work for our daily bread and our future needs we should not forget God who gifted us with life.

Whatever we do to provide for ourselves today and the future should help us to develop a good relationship with God. It should help us to grow in the goodness and love of God.

The problem is it is far too easy to become overly anxious or worried about our necessities of life and our future needs.

I believe our knowledge in God's goodness and love will enable us to overcome the problem of over-anxiety and fear.

In the state of anxiety or worry our trust in the goodness and love of God should help us to make the most of what we are and value our lives.

Some time ago I met a man, who was sick and had been told that he had few days to live, who told me that even though he was worried about his

imminent death, his trust in God's goodness and love had given him the inner strength to overcome the fear of death and that he had understood and appreciated better the value of life.

The first reading tells us that God's maternal, tender love for us should help us to live our lives without fear.

It is said that in human relationships there is no greater love than that of a mother for her baby. It is an unselfish love, a dedication that requires and expects nothing in return.

This is the image that Isaiah uses to describe God's love and goodness for us. So in the face of threat and danger that confront us every day we should not cry out in despair; we should not feel abandoned and forgotten as God simply walked out on us. God will never abandon us. Let us always remember that God's time is the best.

In short, both Isaiah and Jesus remind us today of God's goodness and his loving tender care for us. He will continue to see us through tomorrow. So in our Christian lives we must not be so preoccupied with basic human matters as to have our attention diverted entirely from our spiritual lives. We need to be thankful to God each day for who we are and what we have and continue to put our trust in his plans for our lives.

Paul, in the second reading, tells us that we are servants and stewards of Christ and as such we must manage His household and property honestly and avoid passing judgment on others. That is, according to Paul, all that Christ wants from us is faithfulness.