

Friday of the Second Week of Advent

*Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.*

Self

Is it selfish to think about yourself? Now there's a question to set the mind running. We think about ourselves everyday. Am I going to get up, what am I going to wear, what should I have to eat, what am I doing today? All legitimate questions and not much chance for being selfish unless you take the last slice of bread or whatever. We have to love ourselves because if we don't then we have no chance of obeying what Jesus said about loving our neighbour as ourself.

The trouble starts to appear when we want everything for ourself and it doesn't matter the cost to other people. In this instance Greed starts to rear its ugly head. There is also the danger that we might claim everything as being done by us. Look at my work and see how superior it is to everybody else's. This is Pride starting to take shape. It is right to be proud of how we have used our talents. But to crow it over other people is not good. We give thanks for the gifts that we have been given and as some of us had instilled to us it is A.M.D.G. for the greater glory of God that we use these talents and shun pride and greed.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Heavenly Father, you sent your Only Son into the world to shed light on the darkness that was covering it. Help us to remove the blindfold that prevents us from seeing the light so that we revive and grow in that same life giving light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Gospel**

Matthew chapter 11 verses 16 to 19

You can't have it both ways.

Our Lord is a master observer of people. He sees what they are doing and stores it up in his mind so that he can use it to highlight the message that he is putting across. Today he is using some of things that children do. They want to play together but not everybody will join in. They try different ways. One of the examples is the playing of pipes but nobody would dance. When they go to the other extreme of singing dirges they would not mourn.

We then have a reference to John the Baptist. Our Lord declared that there is no greater profit than the Baptist. People flocked to hear him. He was determined in his message giving. He spoke it as he saw it and didn't mind the consequences which meant prison and death. John lived a frugal life. He didn't eat or drink meaning he didn't sit at banquet tables. But for all this he was deemed to be possessed by a spirit.

On the other hand Jesus did eat and drink. But who did he eat and drink with? Tax-collectors and sinners. Yes tax-collectors and sinners. Not the hoypoloy but those who needed his help. To be frank he did sit with some who needed his help but they refused it. He too spoke it as he saw it and didn't mind the consequences which meant arrest and death.

Both John and Jesus spoke the message but neither were accepted because they didn't fit the bill. It was easy to dismiss John. But Jesus, they couldn't fathom him out. Yes they rejected him but he kept coming back.

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

**Your Own Time.**

**Rosary.** Let us ask God to help us proclaim the Word to the people we meet by being ourselves who do their best to live out the Gospel message by what we do and say.

**Concluding Prayer**

As the days get even shorter, let us strengthen ourselves with a desire to be who we are and follow the Way, the Truth and the Light. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**