

JUNE 16, 2021
Wednesday of 11th Week in OT
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

“DO THINGS IN SECRET.”

How do we worship God and how deep is our relationship with God? Do we worship Him or do we worship ourselves? Is our focus in our prayer is ourselves or God? These are the questions maybe in the mind of Jesus in discussing almsgiving, prayer and fasting. “The Jews considered these three as the cardinal works of the religious life. These were seen as the key signs of a pious person, the three great pillars on which the good life was based. Jesus pointed to the heart of the matter. Why do you pray, fast, and give alms? To draw attention to yourself so that others may notice and think highly of you? Or to give glory to God?”¹ The Lord is telling us to praise God discreetly and focusses on God not of ourselves because God and His love for us is subtle. Jesus’ life and teaching are great example: He leave His trone, His glory behind, was born in a manger and died on the cross for mankind. Jesus Christ became poor so that we may be rich and for us, sinners be save. “All this, Jesus says, is no worship of God but a kind of self-advertisement. Such people, he says, get their reward, namely, the admiration of the onlooker but it is not the reward that comes from acts of genuine worship. When his disciples pray or fast or give alms they should do it in such a way that their actions will be directed entirely to God and not to themselves.”²

Focussing on our communion with God our Father must be our ultimate goal because only in Him, our life will be complete. We find the fullness of life, happiness, beauty, love and joy in God alone. Prayer, almsgiving and fasting must be for the glory of God not of our own selves that’s why, Jesus is telling us, all these things must be done in secret and discreetly. So, let us do things with love and humility.

¹ www.dailyscripture.net

² livingspace.sacredspace.ie