



Friday 22nd October 2021

Friday of the twenty-ninth week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Gospel

Lk 12:54-59

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You know how to interpret the face of the earth and the sky. How is it you do not know how to interpret these times?

Jesus said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud looming up in the west you say at once that rain is coming, and so it does. And when the wind is from the south you say it will be hot, and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the face of the earth and the sky. How is it you do not know how to interpret these times?

'Why not judge for yourselves what is right? For example: when you go to court with your opponent, try to settle with him on the way, or he may drag you before the judge and the judge hand you over to the bailiff and the bailiff have you thrown into prison. I tell you, you will not get out till you have paid the very last penny.'

Reflection by Fr John Purnell

Today Jesus says: *"When you see a cloud rising in the west, you know that it is likely that rain soon will fall."*

At a young age, we all learn to be attentive and alert to the weather. One of the first things I do in the morning when I get up is to look out the window to see what the weather is like. Then I will check on my iPhone and see what the forecast is for the day. Then I know that I will be awake and prepared for the day.

However, Jesus is upset and frustrated with the crowds who have gathered to listen to him preach. He is angry that they do not know how to interpret the present time.

Are the people blind, deaf or dumb? Jesus expresses his anger and frustration when he asks them: *"Why do you not judge for yourself what is right?"*

Jesus simply wants us to be attentive to the many signs in our lives. Some of the signs we receive are from God. Other signs or clues may come from the people in our lives, be they family, friends or strangers. Then there are the signs we can glean from all the turmoil and pain in our lives and in our world. Though many of these signs are violent, painful and tragic, there also is great beauty, love and self-giving in the midst of all the pain and tragedy.

How do you interpret our present time? Do you ignore it? Or do you strive to make sense of it? Do you pray for the many people in our world who every day struggle in the midst of violence, terrorism, starvation or poverty? Or are we tempted to ignore the pain and suffering in our world as we go about our day?

Today may we be mindful of the multitudes of people in our world who are in dire need of love, care and prayer. If we are not mindful and caring of them, we may be judged for not acting in a right and loving manner!

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