

Reflection Monday Week 11 – 2020

Our first reading reminds us of an evil that exists in every society: the unjust use of power as shown by Ahab. However, it is not enough to acknowledge it, even publicize it, we have to act on it and root it out. At first sight, Jesus seems to suggest that our task is NOT to seek justice but actually go out of our way to help the unjust person, the enemy. He says: *Turn the other cheek. Go further than that which has been coerced unjustly.* Jesus believes that justice is not about making recompense or *making them pay*, as some would want. Jesus believes we are much better than that. Jesus wished to nurture a society in which we cared for each other whether good or bad, so that the misuse of power and money could not and would not exist. A utopia, yes; a society that, despite conflicts and disagreements, regarded maintaining harmony as a top priority. A society in which each person was valued, however they might live or act. Jesus believed that showing care and love to our enemies was the best way to achieve this. . . . Obviously, much, much easier said than done.

So, let us pray with St Anslem:

"O merciful God, fill our hearts, we pray, with the graces of your Holy Spirit; with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. Teach us to love those who hate us; to pray for those who spitefully use us; that we may be children of your love, Father. You, who make the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and who sends rain on the just and on the unjust. In adversity grant us grace to be patient; in prosperity keep us humble; may we guard the door of our lips; may we lightly esteem the pleasures of this world, and thirst after heavenly things; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Yet another story . . .

A man is walking in a graveyard when he hears the Third Symphony being played backward. When it's over, the Second Symphony starts playing, also backward, and then the First. "What's going on?" he asks a cemetery worker.

"It's Beethoven," says the worker. **"He's decomposing."**