

Reflection Tuesday Week 11 – 2020

Our first reading emphasises the mercy of God towards Ahab because he repented. By acknowledging God's mercy towards us, it makes it easier for us to do what Jesus ask of us in the Gospel: to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Having received the same mercy from God as Ahab, we will be more ready to show mercy to others whatever their offence against us. Deep-down we know that reconciliation, forgiveness and mercy are essential if we truly want to heal the injustices and abuses in our world. The prayer of Richard of Chichester (1197 - 1253) reflects this desire when he prays:

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
**may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

In the 13th century, Richard of Chichester certainly lived today's Gospel as a Bishop by showing special care for handicapped children and the poor but also for convicted criminals. He lived very simply, some would say frugally, and lived his prayer daily, setting us an example we should follow. Let us ask him for the help that we need to do the same.

We pray again the prayer of St Anselm:

"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."

Famous LAST WORDS from chemists:

1. "And now for the taste test..."
2. "And now let us shake it a bit..."
3. "In which glass was my mineral water?"
4. "This is a completely safe experimental setup."
5. "Now you can take the protection window away..."