

Guide me, O Lord, as the pupil of your eye!

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17

Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Luke 12:13-21

In the first reading Qoheleth emphasizes the vanity of all earthly things. A person may labor with wisdom, skill, and knowledge but leaves all his prosperity to one who has not labored for it. So where is the profit in this for the one who has worked so hard? What is his recompense for his anxiety, sorrow, and grief?

The Psalmist reminds the reader of the ephemeral nature of earthly life. He seeks, through prayer and guidance to put things in proper perspective and to gain wisdom, and to be filled with kindness at the beginning of each day so that gladness may become first nature with him.

In the second reading Paul encourages the faithful who are raised with Christ to seek what is above and not to think of earthly things. We are to put to death such things as immorality, passion, evil desire, and greed. In this way our new self is being renewed in the image of the creator.

In the Gospel Jesus emphasizes that we are to take great care against all forms of greed. He tells the parable of the rich man who expands his worldly estate only to die soon afterwards. This is, Jesus says, what happens to those who store up treasures for themselves in this world.



**Exalt the Father,
Bow down before the Son,
Seek the things of the Holy Spirit.**



An understanding of the vanity of this passing world should inspire us to seek the things that are above, where the Son is ever interceding for us. The gifts of life, truth, and goodness are beyond and above the passing pleasures of sense gratification and financial success. The rich man in the parable lost realization of how temporary this world is and followed the beaten path to the graveyard much sooner than he anticipated. Are you seeking treasures that are above?

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Many persons desire to be considered as contemplative in nature but neglect those aspects which are necessary for its attainment. It hinders us if we can only feel comfortable in outward signs and not realize the importance of humility. It is often difficult to understand by what spirit we are led or what we aspire to, we who want to consider ourselves as spiritual persons.

We take such great care with things that are transitory and worthless while we neglect those things so necessary for spiritual health. We easily lose sight of where our affections lie and then do not realize the shortcomings of our actions. If our inward desires are misguided then our actions that follow will also be; if they be pure then "the good fruits will be recognized by others." (Matthew 7:16)

(Adapted from Kempis' Imitations, Book 3, Chapt. 31)

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