

Matthew 6,25-34

Our newspapers are full of bad news about both global and Italian economy. We aren't out of this world economical crisis and in the next few months the numbers of the unemployed will increase.

In this congregation there are people that are faced by these problems; unemployed or "in cassa integrazione".

In front of this difficulties would be a paradox to preach on this text of the Gospel in which Jesus says that you must not worry "about your life, what will you eat or what will you drink, or about your body, what will you wear..."

If Jesus talks about luxury we maybe can understand his words, but He talks about the basic needs!!

It looks like Jesus ask his disciples to be irresponsible or silly, but this is not the point. He wants to show his followers what means believe in God in concrete terms and to do that he breaks down religious values of his time!

"More you have, more rich and good is your family, more God have blessed you!" These words we can also listen today. There are many prosperity preachers that press Christians to seek material gain. We disagree with them, but does our daily life reflect our convictions of faith? And which are these convictions?

Jesus explains his call away from worry by noting that life is more than food or clothing. The deepest dimension of life is relationship with God and the others.

But the focus of his speech is that everything we can have is coming from God who care for us. Jesus draws a lesson from God's care for birds and flowers: God provides for creatures and the human race is much more for Him. So we need to trust in God's love and care.

Human race has always fear and needs security. The centre of Jesus preach is on what our certainty is based. Is it based on materials things? On wellness, popularity, success that can take away our fear and needs for a while?

Living is more than having; it is being in relationship with God and relating well to others. Placing concern for our daily needs in God's hands is part of what it means to have relationship with God.

According the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard Jesus is "a far more terrible robber" than those who assault travellers among a highway because Jesus assaulted the whole human race at the point where that race is more sensitive: its desire for security and superiority.

According with Jesus we cannot serve at the same time two masters - God and wealth - having a completely different meaning of the sense of life. We need to make a concrete and radical choice.

And so Jesus go back to the centre of his preach on the mountain: the Kingdom of God.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness..."

God's Kingdom and righteousness are complementary concept and sum up everything what we need to look for as believers.

Unlike those in the world who consume themselves with the pursuit of materials things, disciples are to focus on seeking God's kingdom that's means pursue relationship with God, his will and the evidence of his rule and guidance in our lives as we seek to serve him.

Jesus offers a promise with the exhortation: God will provide these others things as well. We can major on what God desire for us because he is committed to our care.

So Jesus preach make a hierarchy of values that involve all our life in order to renew it. We are invited to preach first of all "your kingdom come, your will be done" and only after "Give us this day our daily bread".

Only when we have done it and have trust in God, we can understand the real meaning and value of our existence and we can also find freedom from fears and anxiety.

Only in this we can find to be blessed by God

Amen

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