

## **Trinity XV – 20.9.20**

“We cannot serve God and Manon”. We perhaps have a vague awareness of Mamon – even an accurate awareness. But we are grateful for the definition of the dictionary, “the personification of riches and greed in the form of a God”. Most of us have an un-easiness in that our lives are tainted with Manon. But as Christians we rule out this temptation – knowing that we cannot serve God and Mamon. And we go instead to the other end of today’s Gospel, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Here we light upon the essence of the Gospel – the transforming of our lives through righteousness. Righteousness means blessings – righteousness is the transforming of our lives – righteousness puts us in the way of blessings. Righteousness, Thanksgiving and Blessedness have a snowball effect. They cling to each other.

We might begin anywhere. We are thankful for blessings. Thankful for simply not having to be hungry. Thankful for recourse to a doctor if there is need. Thankful for home and family that we so take for granted. Thankful for all ordinary things – for freedom to express our views – for the democracy of our nation.

And one very important recognition – that righteousness is required of us – a supreme recognition in that we know that we ourselves cannot attain righteousness. There is that within us that brings out our lower nature to rule over us. We are brought to the centre of the Christian faith – through our baptism into Our Lord, we are made righteous.

How to be aware of this righteousness? A Trappist monk (Thomas Merton) can help us. He is pretty eloquent for one who is vowed to silence for much of every day – and who cares much for the written word.

But this awareness of righteousness. In his book “The Sign of Jonas” – we find these words: “By the reading of Scripture I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green, light is sharper on the outlines of the forest and the hills and the whole world is changed with the glory of God and I feel fire and music in the earth under my feet.

Well we need not feel fire and music under our feet, but through his witness we shall certainly know something more of righteousness.

© Br George