

Pentecost 12, 11/8/2013, Holy Trinity

Luke 12:32-40

What an introduction you have to a loving, Father God!

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

God wants you to benefit when God’s will finally triumphs.

God wants to give you something that is promised and that is promising.

Your hope rests in a God who wants to give.

This is WOW!

The rest of the passage presents you with a number of issues including the use of wealth, taking care of ourselves with love, celebration and joy in everyday life and service to others.

And as though that it not enough there is talk of readiness and alertness to the temptation to give way to alternative value systems to the ones our Lord presents.

Now let’s look at these in relation to the gospel passage this morning.

The passage speaks of selling property and using the proceeds for others.

This is complex in to-day’s living but that does not preclude us from looking at the principle behind it.

The reality is that we need to address the underlying possessiveness that plagues many in our society.

This comes under the concept of consumerism and the advertising that promotes it.

You know the line: You must have this or that, the new extension on the house for the summer, or the latest in cars or furniture or whatever.

When you overcome the underlying possessiveness then you are free to use your wealth wisely for yourself and others, including God.

The passage speaks of taking care of yourself with love.

Go for purses that will not wear thin and lose your money.

This means to act in your own best interest within the framework of the gospel that amounts to love of self, of God, and others.

Here again there is a temptation to self-interest when you show your love for God and others as a means to an end of gaining a reward.

You do your works of charity, helping here and there, showing your love for God and others in order to gain “some pie in the sky when I die” or as some proclaim a teaching that assures you of further financial rewards in this life.

Then we have the image of a wedding with the celebration and the joy.

I am not going to push this too hard with the bridegroom being servant to his own slaves but underlying it is the joy of everyday living.

What gives you joy? Is it a relationship, or creation, looking at the stars at night in awe, walking on the beach or simply living?

Do you see God in whatever it is that brings you joy?

This is part of your spirituality to see God in your everyday living.

All this is part of Jesus’ teaching about the kingdom.

It is not about power and control.

The kingdom is about love and compassion.

This is where you need to be alert, because the temptation of the world is for a kingdom of power and control.

For you, on the other hand, it is love and compassion that sets you apart as belonging to the Kingdom of God in the NOW.