



BLD WASHINGTON
BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS
COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

TREASURES WE NEED TO STORE

Theme: New life in Christ is putting to death earthly desire.

Word: Ecc 1:2,2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17;
Col 3:1-5,9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Order: "...put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator." (Col 3:10)

(BLD Global Community reflection for July 2010)

REFLECTION:

In the gospel reading a man was asking the Lord to tell his brother to give him his share of their inheritance. This request is not uncommon during those times, when families could not agree peacefully. They would go to court or to a Rabbi. They had the authority to make a decision and that would be binding to the parties involved. The Lord said "*Friend, who appointed me as your judge or arbitrator?*" From the Lord's comment we could see that he does not want to assume the legislative or judicial power because he does not want to interfere with authorities who are already watching his every move.

His next comment to the crowd was to warn them about greed in all forms, that man's life does not consist of abundance in possession. The Jews at that time considered a wealthy man to be blessed by God, while the poor were looked upon as cursed.

Now Jesus was warning them about the pitfalls of abundance. The parable that followed reinforces what the Lord wanted to teach them. This rich man had so much harvest that he had no place to put them. His next move was to rake them all in, tear down his existing barns and build larger ones. He never thought of sharing the excess with his workers or giving some of them to the church or to the poor. He appropriated for himself much, much more than he could consume.

The parable continues as rich man then confidently said to himself "you have so much saved up to last for many years, so take it easy, eat, drink and be merry. He found security in his possessions and there was no mention of thanking the Giver of the goods. The Lord said to him "*fool, this very night your life shall be required of you, who then will get these, piled up wealth of yours?*" It is sobering because when we seriously think about it, no one has been able to take anything with him when he dies.

In Matthew 6:19-21 it is said, "***Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart.***" Many of us have heard this parable of the rich man before but we have placed it in the nice to know file in our memory. Perhaps our experience with the Lord is that he is a God of second chances, we believe we have at least 70 times seven chances. It is true that God loves us so much but it does not

mean he never gets angry when we violate his commandments.

The Bible is filled with episodes of the Lord's anger when the Israelites disobeyed him. We might say that was then, how does this apply to our times? In his famous "*Summa Theologiae*" St. Thomas Aquinas wrote that God's wrath or anger is expressed when he allows us to enjoy our sin. It does not make sense, why would God make us love the sin instead of hate it. St. Thomas said that as we experience the thrill and excitement of the sin we begin to have an addiction, a slavery, a bondage to the idolatrous nature of sin that we could not stop even if we want to.

Our punishment is that sin drives us further and further away from the Lord. God's mercy comes when we are caught in that sinful situation, perhaps an illicit or adulterous relationship or selfishness or greed that deprives others or for unethical business practices. His correction may come in the form of sickness, an accident, or losing our job or losing a loved one.

When the rug is pulled from under us, when we realize and accept our powerlessness, our journey back to God has begun. When we begin to let go of the controls, surrender our lives and call on the Lord and beg for his mercy, then he will help us because it was already his mercy that brought us to this situation. Again it may not seem logical from the human perspective but in Isaiah 55:8 the Lord says; "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways*".

DIRECTIONS:

1. Take time to read the scriptures daily and spend time in the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Persevere in doing good and store up treasures in heaven, not on earth.
3. Take care to guard against all greed.
4. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immortality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another.

God's Promise for the Week

"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Lk 11:10)

Reflections on the Aspirant's Retreat

Reflection 1:

I am very thankful to this love-filled community, to everyone who prayed and worked at the retreat, and especially the sharers and our spiritual director Fr. Francis. I came into the weekend with a lot of concerns and questions on my mind, and I knew it was God's plan for me to be there. Needless to say, it was a good retreat -- filled with graces from God. In the quiet of my heart, my personal relationship with the Lord Jesus was strengthened, and in addition, I came away with a lot of tools to help me Live for Christ day-to-day. I know I am not alone among the aspirants in this sentiment. Thank the Lord also for our North Carolina brothers and sisters who "aspired" alongside us. It is so nice when communities far away from each other can bond in this special way. Praise God!

Reflection 2:

My own words seem insufficient in describing the immensely powerful experience the Aspirant's Retreat had to offer. The whole rhythm of the retreat provided just the right environment for me to empty myself and wait upon the Lord. The result was intense and deeply personal. In allowing God to speak to my heart, it was clear that I was brought there through the bidding of Christ himself. There was no denying that I was being called to "die unto the Lord" – to leave my old self behind and claim my place as the daughter of God, and sister of Jesus. "*In the same way we also, when we were not of age, were enslaved to the elemental powers of the world.*"

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" "Galatians 4:4-6

As with other community encounters, seminars, and retreats, the weekend left me feeling entirely consumed by God’s grace. However, what the Aspirant’s Retreat planted in my heart was one that was totally unexpected. God’s ever so gentle voice reached out to my soul and spoke words that moved me to surrender everything to him. His living presence in me claimed victory over the most horrid parts of my being. He made my heart overflow with such love for him, while recognizing the many blessings he has bestowed on me. While my resolve to be possessed by God alone is strong, I know that I am prone to err. And so I implore you my brothers and sisters in Christ, to pray for me that my battle cry will be – *“The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage. You set a table before me as my enemies watch; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.” Psalm 23*

Love Offering:

July 02, 2010 \$ 799.00
July 09, 2010 \$ 957.11
July 16, 2010 \$ 780.00
July 23, 2010 \$ 724.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Reminder:

Please sign in and wear your BLD IDs during Praise and Worship and Community Functions.

July Calendar:

July 02 - First Friday Mass
July 09 - Praise & Worship
July 16 - Praise & Worship
July 23 - Praise & Worship
July 30 - Praise & Worship

Community Calendar:

July 30-Aug. 1
Family Encounter #5
Malvern, PA
August 7-8, 2010
Recollection and Consultation
with Archbishop Lagdameo
Archdiocesan Center
171 Clifton Avenue,
Newark, NJ 07104
August 21, 2010
Community Recollection & Mass
St. Raphael Catholic Church
Rockville, MD
900 AM - 4:00 PM
September 24-26
Solo Parent Encounter #3
Holy Family Seminary
Silver Spring, MD
November 12-14
Marriage Encounter #11
Dulles Hilton, VA

Please check our website www.bldwashington.com for 2010 Schedule of Events.

Teaching Schedule:

SATURDAY, August 14
McCarrick Center, Basement Rm 1
Silver Spring, MD

- NEW CREATION REALITIES
9:30 - 10:30 AM (LSS10 & older)
Discover how baptism has made you a
new creation in Christ!

- GROWTH IN PRAYER

10:30 AM - 12:00 NN (LSS 10 & older)
Learn how to grow in your spiritual life through prayer!

- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

1:00 - 2:00 PM (LSS9 & older)
Encounter Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF LUKE

2:00 - 3:00 PM (LSS 9 & older)
Meet Jesus in the Gospel of Luke

- Encounter with Jesus: GOSPEL OF JOHN

3:00 - 4:30 PM (LSS 9 & older)
Get to know Jesus in the Gospel of John

SUNDAY, August 15

**McCarrick Center, Basement Rm 1
Silver Spring, MD**

- Christian Maturity Program II: GIVING

1:00 - 2:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)

Learn how to give back to the Lord in return for all His blessings

- Christian Maturity Program II: WITNESSING

2:00 - 3:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)

Learn how to be a martyr (or witness) for the Faith

- UNDERSTANDING CORPORATE WORSHIP

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (LSS 8 & older)

Deepen your worship experience by understanding what goes on in P&W

SUNDAY, August 15

**McCarrick Center, Rm 2/3
Silver Spring, MD**

- TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST BY

FR. JOHN CORAPI (covenanted members)

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Learn more about the treasure of our Catholic Faith

