

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF  
ECCLESIASTES 1:2; 2:21-23

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Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Sometimes a person who has toiled  
with wisdom and knowledge and skill  
must leave everything to be enjoyed  
by someone who did not toil for it.  
This also is vanity and a great evil.

What has a man from all the toil  
and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun?

For all his days are full of sorrow,  
and his work is a vexation.

Even in the night his heart does not rest.  
This also is vanity.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation.*

You turn man back to dust,  
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'

To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
or like a watch in the night.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation.*

You sweep them away like a dream,  
like grass which is fresh in the morning.

In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;  
by evening it withers and fades.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation.*

Then teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Turn back, O LORD! How long?

Show pity to your servants.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation.*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the LORD our God be upon us;  
give success to the work of our hands.  
O give success to the work of our hands.  
*O Lord, you have been our refuge,  
from generation to generation.*

## THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

Brothers and Sisters:

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,  
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on  
earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with  
him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality,  
impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self  
with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being  
renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,  
barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO LUKE

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’

But he said to him, ‘Man,

.who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?’

And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of one’s possessions.’

And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, “What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?”’

And he said, “I will do this:

I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ”

But God said to him,

“Fool! This night your soul is required of you,  
and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself,  
and is not rich towards God.’

The Gospel of the Lord

## THE REFLECTION

I was away for a week and we looked at the best book on the Catholic faith. It is called Youcat and is accessible as a book or on the internet as a PDF file. It covers all the Catholic faith and is authentic, the Vatican approved teaching. Youcat gives some quotations from all time to illustrate the idea. The full Catechism is a heavy book, over 700 big pages of type with footnotes of the tradition and bible references. It fully explains some of the questions that we can be unsure about, some about administration and persons, such as for marriage or baptism gives the idea of what's allowed are to do with Canon Law which explains how the institution of the Church works. Canon law is about administration, the Catechism is about what we believe and what we should do.

One important development in this, is about Sin. There are venial and Mortal sins – separating us from Christ, but there are no actions listed as sins in themselves. No people or faith is condemned to Hell, only by self-exclusion, never coming to a change of heart and always refusing God's love. People who have same sex attraction should be accepted without reservation, although their sexual actions can never result in the birth of children as our bodies are so designed by God.

The most surprising is the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, "You must not steal" is a platform for our attitude to property. There is a development of social justice teaching and our mutual obligations. Our rich man should be aware that he should pay his workers the right wages, working in humane conditions, and not profiteer by dynamic pricing.

We should all be aware of the environment and our shared responsibility; productivity should serve human nature and managing earth's goods.

Personal property should still be respected and has a social obligation; Bill Gates seem to have got it right. Pope Benedict put this clearly when he wrote that Justice precedes charity, the goods of creation are destined for the whole human race. Not to enable the poor to share in our good is to steal from them.