

Commentary on the Gospel for Fri, Jun 20th 2014

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” This seems to be the key phrase in today’s Gospel reading and I can’t help but be reminded of Fr. Pedro Arrupe’s famous quote about falling in love. He was the Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 1965 to 1983 and this short prayer/poem is very familiar to many students, staff, and faculty of Jesuit universities. Its message, though, speaks to all people of faith:

Nothing is more practical than

finding God, that is, than

falling in love

in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with,

what seizes your imagination,

will affect everything.

It will decide

what will get you out of bed

in the morning,

what you do with your evenings,

how you spend your weekends,

what you read, who you know,

what breaks your heart,

and what amazes you with

joy and gratitude.

Fall in love, stay in love,

and it will decide everything.

So the question for each of us today is this: What am I in love with? Where is my treasure?

For me, the challenging part of this is the fact that it is so easy to tell myself, in my head, that “Of course my treasure lies with God!” and to feel secure in that without really doing the hard and sometimes uncomfortable work of diving into whether or not that is actually true. So how do I get beyond this blanket statement that is sometimes more delusion and self-congratulations than anything else?

I think one way is to, in a sense, flip Fr. Arrupe’s equation. Rather than first asking ourselves whether or not our treasure is in God, maybe we should first look at what we do with our evenings, how we spend our weekends, etc. Yes, falling in love with God will affect everything, but how we spend our time on a daily basis also reveals what we are in love with and where our treasure is. One of the great gifts of Ignatian Spirituality is its invitation and challenge to us to examine our day in order to seek God and to ask ourselves whether or not we are recognizing and responding to the work of the Holy Spirit in the lived experience of our daily lives.

Is a good portion of my day spent on selfish thoughts and actions, drinking too much alcohol, watching YouTube videos that either have no inherent value or that denigrate or objectify others? If so, that tells me something about where my treasure lies. Or, am I spending my day in prayer and reflection, cultivating healthy habits and relationships, and seeking to serve and care for others?

Today we are challenged to find our treasure in God, but in a way that moves beyond simple intellectual assertions. Allowing our actions to reveal to us the trajectory of what we really believe and value can be a helpful, important, and yes, challenging first step in recognizing where our hearts are, what we are in love with, and where our treasure really lies.

Craig Zimmer - Creighton University Student