

Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Dec 4th 2014

It is not sufficient that we “please” God with prayers, rituals, sacrifices, etc. What really pleases God is the expressions of our prayers in our day to day life and our just dealings with our brothers and sisters. Our life in the temple should be reflected in our day to day life. The Jews are very religious people and they prayed regularly and practised so many rituals. Yet, Yahweh condemned them saying, “When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood” (cf. Is. 1:14-15). God wants that we express our love for him concretely in loving our brothers and sisters, especially those in real need. We need to wash ourselves; make ourselves clean; remove the evil of our doings; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow (Is. 1:16-17). As John writes, “Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen (I Jn 4:20-21). When we do this, we are like wise men who built the house on the rock. It is not sufficient that we read the word of God and meditate on it day and night; we also need to live according to the words of Jesus. We cannot be fools building our life on the shaky sand.

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