

Justice that sees

The world of politics and society at large seems to show you can get away with anything. Stories emerge of people who cheat, mock, or treat others with contempt and are never brought to account. The unimportant are trampled in the charge towards self-promotion, profit and power. At best, it seems cartoonish and faintly ridiculous; when we consider those who are victims it looks mean and nasty.

It can lead us to become worldly-wise and doubtful of the motivations of just about anyone. We dismiss the idea that a person may have made a genuine mistake; we see malice and manipulation everywhere.



An armour of cynicism may mean we are never surprised by outrageous behaviour but it eats away at our humanity.

Deep within us is another self that is kinder and gentler which, tragically, we are tempted to suppress. It is connected to a core belief that justice will prevail and the meek shall inherit the earth.

The news may tell us that this just does not happen, but I must hang on in hope.

The Gospel for this week's Feast of Christ the King provides a healthy message for those inclined to despair of justice.

The parable tells us that there is a principle on which the justice of Jesus is founded. He identifies himself with the weak and disregarded,

in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.

This is not a blind justice that simply seeks to balance things out. This is justice that takes on vested interest and power; it uproots influence and lays low corruption. It is justice that sees and acts.

Ignoring the needy will have its consequences. This gives new hope that those who only look after themselves and who trample their way to the top will have a reckoning.

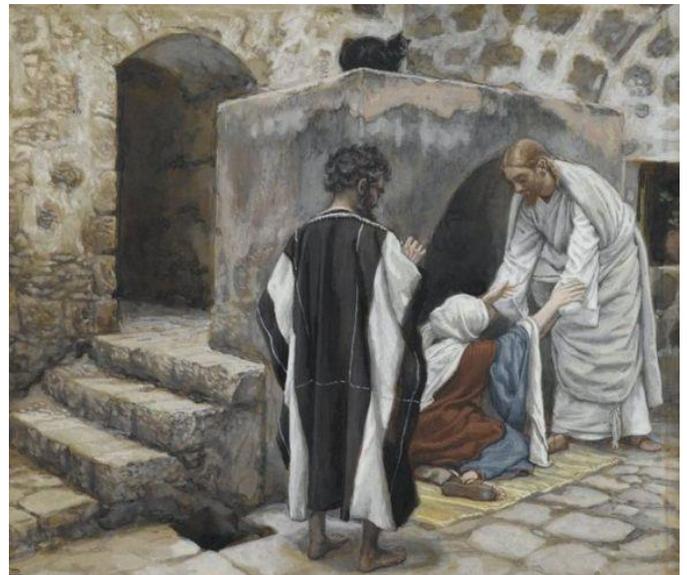
Of course, while glowing in the certainty that those whose act deplorably will know about it, I must remember that this justice also applies to me.

There is more to see in this parable.

Sometimes, when we are trying our best, we wonder if it makes any difference. We might ask 'does anyone ever notice?' Such a thought may not be a seeking of acknowledgement or reward but rather a feeling of helplessness and futility.

Jesus spoke of those who treat well even 'one of the least'. He tells us that the smallest acts of kindness are noted and remembered by God. Our briefest moments of human goodness draw us close to Jesus.

It is an answer to that form of cynicism which tempts us to give up trying.





This parable recalled on the Feast of Christ the King, in which Jesus speaks of his coming in glory, gives us an insight into the kingdom of God.

This is a realm where the weak have a champion and those who try to help are recognised and blessed.

It is a kingdom of justice where oppression will end.

It seems the kingdom is not yet here, and some reject the whole idea as 'pie in the sky when you die'.

The parable says that kingdom will certainly come and that its rule is here in a hidden way, today. The King will come and give judgement based on what happens now. As disciples of Christ, the King, we are to bring the kingdom to birth in our lives and in those around us.