

Reflection

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A deeper holiness is asked of the disciples of Jesus in this section of the Sermon on the Mount according to scripture scholar, Fr. Don Senior; it shows Jesus as teacher of genuine wisdom. It tells us that our good deeds must not be an empty show but must flow from an “absolutely sincere heart.” It goes on to say, giving alms should be done in secret, a life of deep prayer is a call for a piety not looking for applause but one focused on a sincere relationship with God.

Fasting should free us from obstacles to service.

What is Jesus saying? That we shouldn't show our commitment to the gospel to others?

No, according to Jesuit Walter Burghardt, it is the **motive** that is important; whatever you do, do it primarily to further a living, personal relationship with God. Do it for God, to come closer to God..

We are looking for a deeper holiness...

This made me think of some words of advice that Francis de Sales spoke to Jeanne de Chantal, about a deeper holiness that she was seeking:

He said: “She was to learn to love beyond her capacity, to learn to love all that life presented to her. In doing so she would open herself radically to the presence of God in all events., her ‘crosses’ all events of self-giving...”

Which brings me to one of my favorite prayers: the Welcome prayer:

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.'

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God.

And God's action within. Amen.

This will lead to a deeper holiness...that is what God desires for us.