



Saturday of the 11th Week in Ordinary Time



Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025 | **Season:** Ordinary Time after Easter | **Year:** C

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34:8–13 | **Response:** Psalm 34:9a

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Corinthians 8:9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:24–34

Preached at: the Chapel of Emmaus House in the Archdiocese of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Hidden wounds often speak louder than visible victories. Paul’s mysterious thorn—a persistent ache within his being—became not a mark of shame but a source of divine revelation. Amid his plea for deliverance came God’s quiet assurance: “My grace is sufficient for you; power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul’s thorn reminds us God meets us precisely at our deepest vulnerability.

This thorn gently points us to today’s Scripture—truth revealed clearly in quiet surrender rather than grand triumph. Paul pleaded repeatedly, only to discover that God’s response was revelation, not release. His weakness became his testimony: “When I am weak, then I am strong,” challenging a culture obsessed with power.

Today’s Psalm echoes this paradox: “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” This is an invitation to personally experience God’s goodness, especially in our vulnerabilities. It points us gently toward the Eucharist, where we surrender ourselves in trust, receiving Christ as our nourishment and strength.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus confronts us: “You cannot serve two masters—God and Mammon.” Mammon subtly promises security and control. Jesus sees the anxiety familiar to us in Zimbabwe, amid inflation, corruption, and daily struggles. Yet, his words offer revolutionary hope: “Consider the birds...look at the lilies.” Trust, Jesus urges, in God’s providence where scarcity becomes abundance and anxiety gives way to peace.

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga exemplifies this trust profoundly. Born into nobility, he renounced privilege to embrace poverty and humility as a Jesuit. During Rome's devastating plague, he found Christ vividly among the suffering, serving the sick and dying with extraordinary courage. Aloysius's short life declares today's Gospel powerfully: "Seek first the Kingdom of God." Though we might struggle to follow his innocence, we can imitate his penitence, relying on God's mercy to transform our weaknesses.

Daily, through Ignatius's Examen, we discern honestly whose kingdom we are building—God's or our own? Whose master claims our hearts—the gentle Lord inviting simplicity or the subtle idol of security?

We stand precisely where vulnerability meets grace. Authentic mission arises not in perfection but fidelity, simplicity, and solidarity.

Friends, let Paul's thorn and Aloysius's courage teach us true freedom in surrender. Let us embrace poverty of spirit, discovering a freedom richer than wealth.

This week, reflect deeply:

- Where am I serving two masters—holding tightly to security while trying to follow God?
- How is God revealing grace through my weaknesses or struggles?
- Practically, how can I seek God's Kingdom in my decisions and community life this week?

May we embrace the strength found in surrender, bearing witness to a Kingdom where God's grace alone is sufficient. Like Aloysius, may we find Christ in those on the margins, serving with open hearts.

Source: <https://sj.mcharlesworth.fr/homilies/2025-06jun-21-yc-ot-11/>

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