

June 20, 2008  
Friday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20

Psalms 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18

Matthew 6:19-23

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...*

I looked around my house recently and noticed how much stuff I have accumulated over the years. It all has meaning for me and I treasure most of it. I am fairly certain that if I walked around the house with a large plastic bag committed to disposing of everything that had no meaning to me, that there would be room left in the bag when I finished. While most of what I own is rather modest, this must be a variation of what Jesus meant in this gospel. St Augustine, tells us in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, that our hearts desire is for God and God alone, and we will experience restlessness within us until we fill our hearts with God. Gerald May, a psychiatrist and spiritual teacher of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, tells us that as human beings we have an inborn desire for God and that this desire is our deepest longing and our greatest treasure. *BUT*, we often bury this desire (or try to fill it) with treasures of the world rather than God: a great intellect, being right, having all the newest gadgets, living in a large house, frequent vacations, having power---the list goes on and on and on and sounds uncomfortably similar to an examination of conscience rather than the pleasures and successes of our lives. These two men are not the only ones who have shared this message with us. And yet, we continue to accumulate stuff instead of deepening our relationship with God. While the present economy is somewhat scary, it does provide the opportunity to experience a simpler life. The shortage of disposable income and the increase of need could lead us to accumulate less and share more. For me, the challenge of this gospel is to take a long loving look at what I have and what I need and determine what I am being invited to let go of and embrace.

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

Matt 6:21