

June 21, 2008  
Saturday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time  
Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, S.J.

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

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

2 Chronicles 24:17-25

Psalms 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34

Matthew 6:24-34

*Jesus said to his disciples: "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

I remember trying to hold to beliefs dear to me while working for an organization governed by opposing principles. I devised all sorts of ways to get around the system while not overtly violating the rules and operating procedures. While I was successful in the technical aspects of this tightrope walk, I did not escape the number it does to our psychological well-being. I found myself becoming increasingly cynical and restless. After enough internal anguish, I had to leave. The cost of leaving was considerable, however, the cost of remaining in that situation was far greater. Walking the tightrope between two masters, my personal beliefs and the demands of the company, was sucking the life out of me, both literally and figuratively. So, I made the choice for life. I did not know at the time the significance of my decision. I just knew that I could not continue to do something that made me angry and unhappy in the healthiest sense of this word. Now, as I look back, through the lens of this gospel passage, I see the truth of Jesus' lesson and I understand the message so clearly put in this gospel passage.

*I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him.*

Deuteronomy 30:19