

23C 2019 SML  
LK 14:25-33

If you had the resources to do anything whatsoever, how would you decide what to do? This might seem like a minor problem, but look, for instance, at people who come into large amounts of money. Much like the Prodigal Son, many of them squander it and as a result, it disappears rather quickly. Likewise, people who have unlimited free time often find themselves doing things that ruin their health, their reputation, or peace of mind. Having too much can sometimes be as much of a problem as having too little.

This evening's (morning's) gospel is all about guarding resources:

- ✓ Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?
- ✓ Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon his with twenty thousand troops?

Our Blessed Lord had tremendous energy, and he knew how to direct it. He was so clear about His mission that He avoided many real and potential energy leaks. For example, even though He was a teacher, in Matthew 21, Jesus refused

to engage in meaningless debates with the chief priests and the elders, who wanted not to learn but to argue. Even at His trial, He did not waste time or energy in what he knew would be a fruitless defense (MK 15:2-5).

Although He was a recruiter of sorts, Our Blessed Lord never wasted energy begging or manipulating others to follow Him. In fact, He trained His disciples to “shake the dust from their feet” (MT 10:14) and to move on to other villages if people were resistant to His ideas. Our Blessed Lord also said not to “cast your pearls before swine,” (MT 7:6) a very graphic image about the importance of knowing where and with whom to share the treasure of your energy.

Our Blessed Lord was so aware of His energy that once when a woman reached out and grabbed His clothes in the middle of a crowd, He turned around and asked, “Who touched me?” The Apostles were astonished, since He was being pushed and shoved and crowded by many as they walked along. “Everybody’s touching you,” they said. “No, I felt power go out from me,” He said. He then turned to face the woman, who asked to be healed. Her intense desire drew on His energy so that He could literally feel her faith.

Jesus:

- ✓ walked on water,
- ✓ came through walls without opening doors,
- ✓ and of course He emerged from a sealed tomb.

Our Blessed Lord was a master of the physics of energy, especially His own, and he was very careful about how He used it.

So how many energy leaks do we have in our own daily lives? Energy leaks that suck the life out of our inner peace? People who know exactly what button to push, and you let them? Angry words, distractions or minding someone else's business while neglecting our own.

To be a disciple requires a tremendous amount of energy. Perhaps that is one reason why public figures succumb to alcohol or drugs. They pour so much energy into the crowds that their own reserves get depleted. So they look for instant energy in all the wrong places.

The Wisdom writer in this evening's (morning's) first reading recommended prayer:

- ✓ To know God's counsel
- ✓ To know what the Lord intends
- ✓ To search out the things of heaven

Thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

Quiet plays a role in its conversion from potential to actualized energy. It is no coincidence that most of the leaders and prophets in the Old Testament were shepherds – people with plenty of time to listen.

So how's about rest, time alone, a workout to restore energy reserves? They work for me.

However, as disciples who are intuitive, or they would not be able to hear and see the things of Our Blessed Lord that non-believers either cannot, or refuse to see or hear. So as believers, we need to keep our spiritual reserves full. Holy Communion, prayer, and most recently, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

It's been two months now since our Adoration Chapel was consecrated. When we were preparing for Adoration, I explained that adorers, and our parish at large, will somehow be different. Personally speaking, I am much more peaceful. Personally speaking, I have made a daily holy hour since I was ordained. But since the Adoration has begun, a holy 90 minutes is more the norm. And I find that I long to make a holy 90 minutes more than I longed to make a holy hour in years past. It's a grace for which I am most grateful. And what do I love to do for 90 minutes? I love to read. There are about 20

books in the adoration chapel for everyone's use. And then sometimes, a clear as a bell directive from Our Blessed Lord to just sit and be with Him. As the shepherds of yesterday had plenty of time to listen, what's written on the back wall of the Adoration Chapel, in the mural, but, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him!"

Disciples must be aware that our energy is subject to depletion, and we must make replenishing, and guarding our energy reserves a priority. For Catholics, our energy source is Our Blessed Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

As even our Blessed Lord replenished and guarded His energy.