

**Teachings of Jesus**    Twenty-eighth Week in Ordinary Time    Friday, October 19, 2018  
Eph 1:11-14;    **Lk 12:1-7**    St. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, priest and Companions,  
martyrs    (We have to struggle to put Christ's thinking into our daily thinking.)

**“You are worth more than many sparrows.”**

We are reading the Gospel of Luke, and **the evangelists put together from other materials words or sayings of Jesus.** In this particular selection that we have in our reading this morning there isn't a tremendous coherence. It's as if **various things said on various occasions** were all put together; maybe they didn't fit anywhere else, so here they are. **They actually have different, you might say, themes.**

It starts off talking about **hypocrisy**, which is a very common theme. Jesus spoke of it very often, **the idea of living by appearances and the danger there of.** Then he talks about the idea that **there is nothing that is ultimately secret.** Now that's something we need to think about, because a lot of things are done in secret and we think no one will find out. Well, yes, **we all will find out everything.** And there's all kinds of whisperings and rumoring that people practice, sometimes to the great disadvantage of certain people, certain targets of the rumor or the whispering. And they think because they don't come out in public, it remains secret and they won't be blamed. Well, Jesus assures us that, yes, you will be blamed. **If you spread rumors and you talk about people and you gossip, yes, it will all be revealed.**

This is an important thing to say because **speech is very important, just as thought is very important.** People always think of actions. They say, “Well I don't do anything bad.” Well that doesn't mean you haven't thought something bad or said something bad. We have to be monitors and guardians of our thoughts and of our speech, and **we have to avoid doing harm with our thoughts and our speech.** Now how can we do harm with thoughts? Well **thoughts eventually generate words and actions.** If we really desire holiness, **we have to actually think holy thoughts.** We have to struggle to put Christ's thinking—that's why St. Paul says, “Put on the mind of Christ”—**we have to struggle to put Christ's thinking into our daily thinking,** our daily stream of consciousness; it has to become the mind of Christ. We have to actually, consciously choose to think about those things that Jesus teaches. **They are not going to pop in our mind without our focusing on them.** What pops into our mind with no effort comes from something

else. Once in a while an inspiration may come from God in that way, but many other things will come that way too, very often temptations. So we have to be careful of what we think, and we have to be careful of what we say.

Then the last part is on fear, and the basic idea is **the only thing we should fear is our capacity to be evil**, and we can, we choose, **we can choose to be evil. That we should fear, nothing else. The things people normally fear**, for example: running out of money, being hungry, getting sick, not having anything to wear, not having anywhere to live, these he says **don't bother about that**. Now you might say, well, that's easy to say, but Jesus himself lived a very simple life as an itinerant preacher. He said, "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." In other words, he was a homeless person. Now true, he was welcomed into many people's homes, and **it is very difficult to live a homeless life**, and we should not think lightly about this. We need to extend ourselves to others; **however, the point is not to fear it. Work in every way to care for your own needs and needs of others, but don't fear**. Fear is something that will eat away at the sort of trust and confidence that is basic to Jesus' teachings. **We need to live every day with trust and confidence in a power of good that's infinite, and therefore can eventually overcome all obstacles**. Now you might say, "Well if God's power of good is so infinite, why do we have to have so many obstacles?" That I cannot tell you. I did not create the world. But as the whirlwind reminded Job, **you don't see the whole picture**. We will only have the answers to our great questions when everything is all over, and then we can make a judgment; until then **we need to suspend our tendency to judge**.