**God Responds to Our Daily Needs**

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I always appreciate you because you are generous. Generosity is protecting the dignity of the human person. You are adding value and making a difference in the life of another who is helpless but not hopeless. This is what is called love.

The justice of God is from the point of view of love rather than from our right. God is not in any way unmindful of our rights, but He is more concern about us as created in His image and likeness.

* God wants a relationship of love with us and that is why He will go a very long way to bring about this relationship.
* He will not enter into it if we are living a life of sin or not ready to submit our vices so that He will have the opportunity of coming into our life. He will come to the soul that is helpless but that has great hope. Never lose hope and never lose the power to pray.
* Many of us still remember the story of the woman who was caught on camera stealing eggs in the supermarket. **This woman is said to have five children and two grandchildren to feed. She was short of 50cent to buy three eggs for the family that day. When she was caught, “She started crying,”** said the Officer who was called to the scene**. “She said, ‘I need help. I need help Officer, I need to put food in my babies’ stomachs.”** That's what got me. That's what hit me the hardest. The officer said. I told her to park on the side of the parking lot. I ran in, bought the carton of eggs, came back outside and handed them to her.” The lady was grateful and prayed that his influence will make an impact. But when the officer was approached to know why he did what he did instead of arresting her, **he said; “We're not all crooked individuals looking to beat up or kill somebody. That's not what we swore to do. That's not why I wear this badge every day.”**
* Like this officer, God comes to our rescue and does not want us to die. God is actually looking out for us, waiting to bring us out of the chains of sin, hunger, human frailty and wicked attitudes. It is not His joy to see us languish in vain in the world of nothing. We may be helpless but we are not hopeless.
* God knows those who are genuinely in need. His punishment is for those who willfully commit offence.
* The Gospel reading of today gives a pictorial illustration of a compassionate God that comes to our aid at the moment of our needs.
* In some circumstances, what seems to be reasonable to us may not be the same with God.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:5-9; God’s judgement of human situation is more from the point of view of love and not just of law. His justice and mercy work hand in hand.

* “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.”
* The fact that God’s thoughts and ways surpass what man could envision or reach is a source of hope for each one of us and should spur us to trust more in God’s goodwill and infinite wisdom.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20c-27a; St Paul is saying to us that in the two states of life, we belong to the Lord. For him, life lived to the fullest while we are still living on earth is the same thing as living life here after.

* For both the life now and the life after are meant to serve the Lord and that is what we should be doing. Life serving God now is living like the saints and enjoy partially the privilege of the redeemed.
* “For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.” To live working for God is fruitful labor. God calls us to worthy living.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a; the parable in this passage shows the mystery of God’s way of saving us. God gives His salvation to us out of His infinite goodness and mercy. He showed this in the way He treated those who came later to work as the same as those who started first.

* The lesson for Christ’s disciples is obvious (v. 15 &16) “Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?'
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”.
* We should not serve Him because we want to receive an expected reward, and we should not insist on knowing what we will get. God is generous and gracious and will always give us better then we deserve.
* All that matters most to God is that we should have a right attitude to service. Whatever God gives is good and because He is goodness Himself, He cannot give anything that is not to the joy and advantage of His creatures.
* God does not want us to be frustrated when we are looking at things from the point of view of fair compensation alone.
* As human being, we are of great value before God. God will not allow us go without our daily need. We have to respect and give that allowance to everyone. This is why at all times, God is showing generosity and grace even when it is not expected.