



# Bringing Home the Word

*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*

August 3, 2025

## Was It Worth It?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**W**e hear many stories about women and men who value things or status over the people in their lives or over genuine fulfillment. Then, something happens that throws them back on their heels, and they are forced to face the question: *Was it worth it?* No, say the writers of today's readings. It is not worth losing yourself or the people you love. In fact, it is not worth risking your own integrity.

The Hebrew word for vanity can be translated as "worthless" or "foolish." The characters in the first reading and the gospel passage were considered

foolish because the labors and possessions that wore them down were ultimately worthless.

This idea of vanity or foolishness is a prominent theme in the Wisdom tradition. We all know that actions have consequences. It's these consequences that reveal what is good for us and what is not, what is worth pursuing and what we should avoid. Those who learn from life experiences in this way are considered wise; those who don't are deemed foolish. We all know this, as we have learned the truth of it from our own experiences.

There is one more aspect that must be considered in making wise decisions. Which consequences are worth the effort we put into achieving them? Are we looking for short-term enjoyment, or do we seek long-term satisfaction? The profit attained by the people in these readings did not last. They couldn't take it with them, so one might ask: *Was it worth it?* †

## Sunday Readings

**Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23**

For what profit comes to mortals from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which they toil under the sun?

**Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11**

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

**Luke 12:13–21**

[Jesus said,] "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

***The consequences  
of our actions reveal  
what is good for us  
and what is not,  
what is worth pursuing  
and what we should avoid.***

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In our day, there is a widespread thirst for justice, a desire for authentic fatherhood and motherhood, a profound longing for spirituality, especially among young people and the marginalized, who do not always find effective means of making their needs known. There is a growing demand for the Church's social doctrine, to which we need to respond.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How do I spend my time and energy?
- At the end of my life, will I say I spent my days well?



# The Gift of Simplicity

Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette

If anyone in history ever typified and exemplified simplicity itself, that someone was Jesus. He invited his disciples and all of his followers to join in the example of his own life. Jesus taught by word

and deed how to live the lesson of gospel simplicity with perfect trust in God and in the joy that belongs to God's children. The more we discover Jesus as a person, the more clearly we perceive the call to embrace simplicity in all its aspects as a way of life. From the gospels, we get the straightforward understanding of how Jesus lived and breathed simplicity into every moment of his life. During the silent moments of prayer and meditation on the gospel texts, the Holy Spirit shows us, with a clarity that only he can conjure, that Jesus our Master honored the Father in heaven and served the brethren on earth with a transparent simplicity of life. Jesus made his earthly journey toward God, avoiding all worldly duplicity, traveling lightly, cultivating at all times that simplicity that unified his life and pointed all his earthly efforts to God alone. Ever since he left us that vivid example of simple living, it has become one of the signs by which we recognize a true follower of Christ.

and deed how to live the lesson of gospel simplicity with perfect trust in God and in the joy that belongs to God's children. The more we discover Jesus as a person, the more clearly we perceive the call to embrace simplicity in all its aspects as a way of life. From the gospels, we get the straightforward understanding of how Jesus lived and breathed simplicity into every moment of his life. During the silent moments of prayer and meditation on the gospel texts, the Holy Spirit shows us, with a clarity that only he can conjure, that Jesus our Master honored the Father in heaven and served the brethren on earth with a transparent simplicity of life. Jesus made his

**Jesus taught by word and deed how to live the lesson of simplicity.**

From the Holy Spirit, we learn that we must become humble imitators of the Master. After all, Jesus clearly taught that the disciple is not greater than the Master. The best we can do to please him is to become more and more like him over time. The call to live out the gospel daily is a radical one, and it embraces the paradox of having to embrace true simplicity while living in a very complex world. Thank God that the Holy Spirit helps untangle the complexities of our time and guides us in the ways of inward simplicity. †

while living in a very complex world. Thank God that the Holy Spirit helps untangle the complexities of our time and guides us in the ways of inward simplicity. †

Adapted from *The Gift of Simplicity: Heart, Mind, Body, Soul*, Liguori Publications (827464). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Dissent and Revelation: How the Holy Spirit Shapes Catholic Doctrine Through Controversy" by Fr. Matthew O'Toole

Serious and thoughtful theological dissent is far different than an expression of mere opinion at variance with a teaching of the Church. Sincere dissent may claim to expose an inconsistency of thought or a conclusion made without foundation in Scripture or sacred Tradition. The challenge for the dissident is to provide sound theological reasoning for his or her claims and carry with it a thread of inspiration from the Holy Spirit if it is to be respectfully considered by the Church. In the Church's history, dissidence has sometimes been of service to God's truth.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) • 800-325-9521



God of abundance, grant me the grace to be contented with "enough" and inspire me to be generous with all that is more than enough. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 4-9

**Monday**, St. John Vianney:  
Nm 11:4b-15 / Mt 14:13-21

**Tuesday**, Weekday: Nm 12:1-13 /  
Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

**Wednesday**, Transfiguration of the Lord:  
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 / 2 Pt 1:16-19 / Lk 9:28b-36

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
Nm 20:1-13 / Mt 16:13-23

**Friday**, St. Dominic:  
Dt 4:32-40 / Mt 16:24-28

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Dt 6:4-13 / Mt 17:14-20

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

August 3, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).