

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 11: 25-29.

The Spirit of God comes to two unlikely prophets.

Second Reading: James 5: 1-6.

A warning not to keep riches of whatever kind to ourselves.

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 47-48.

Anyone who is not against Jesus is for him. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.



Points for Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us what is demanded of us in order for us to belong to his Kingdom.

1. First of all, **we should respect and cooperate with all non-Christian institutions and people** who, though outside the Church's structure, work for the same goals of justice and peace that we are working for. We might find such people among our fellow workers, or our fellow students, or even in our families: people who do not yet believe in Jesus, but who, nonetheless, behave nicely to others, devote themselves to others, and work for good causes. They, too, by so doing are led by the Spirit of God and contribute towards the coming of God's Kingdom. Let us be nice to them and cooperate with them whenever the opportunity offers itself.
2. In order to have part in Jesus' Kingdom, **it is also necessary for us Christians to be hospitable to all other disciples of Jesus.** And it is precisely this love and unity among us Christians that becomes the most outstanding and credible sign of our Christian faith and bears witness to Christ.
3. **Christ's disciples must also be very careful not to be an obstacle to the faith of their fellow Christians.** We should never give such bad examples to those Christians who approach us or know us as to entice them to sin or to gradually diminish, if not lose, their faith. Jesus uses very serious words, indeed, to stigmatize the evil of those who entice their brethren into sin.
4. **Christ's disciples, lastly, should show no mercy for themselves whenever they find that they are behaving against the will of God.** Jesus says that it is infinitely better to make any kind of sacrifice on earth in order to lead a life pleasing to God, and so be able to enter his Kingdom, than to want to enjoy all the pleasures of this life and, then, not to be able to enter God's Kingdom.
5. As we see, Jesus wants us to put the Kingdom of God at the top of our concerns. God, His will, His love must be our first concern in our lives. And for the Kingdom of God's sake we should be ready and determined to renounce everything.

May his Spirit enlighten and strengthen us.

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Kids' Corner

Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading.

