

How could seeking Jesus ever be wrong? How could following Christ, searching for Him ever elicit a correction from Him. That's exactly what you see in today's Gospel and it still happens. Looking to Jesus just for a quick fix, focused on things that perish. Following Jesus to have an easier life.

When we focus upon the things that perish- that's why we all grumble so much. Selective memory still. Focus on all that's wrong, focus on our bellies. Just like it was there with God's people in the Exodus. They forgot the lashes of the whip, the oppression, would rather die in bondage in the foreign land of Egypt and be feed. Than to live free in a wilderness where they have seen God take care of them, but they still have to struggling with things.

It is common to the people of Israel in spite of the fact they had seen miraculous works even the Red Sea parting, common to the people with Jesus in spite of the fact so many saw Him walk on water and feed thousands with 5 loaves and 2 fish, is it common to you, us all, in spite of the fact with live in the historical reality of the death and resurrection of Jesus, with His works and signs and promises and daily care in you life, common to you, to be more concerned over your stomach than your soul, more concerned over your things that will perish, that for the things of His kingdom, things of His word, Sacraments.

Grumble, God you should've given me better family, a better spouse, a better home, better job, better friends, people in my life and on and on. Sure there is a righteous lament we can make, but 99% of your complaints and mine are outright sinful, unloving, self-serving, unkind. God help us!

We're all like teenagers looking at a fridge full of food, a full pantry shelf and whine "there is nothing to eat." Shame on us all.

Chasing after bread that perishes. Especially as struggles come, hunger for things come, worries over life come...that you would see, rather live out your life know He will take care of all those things, and He has come to give you far, far greater things.

St. Lawrence in Rome, 258 AD, this August, was told by the Emperor to gather all the wealth of the church and give it to Caesar. He asked for 3 days to gather it. Then He came in with all the treasure of the Church. He walked in with the poor, the blind, those suffering, members of the Church. He would be martyred that day because of the work of God, the works of the Christ were his. He had food that never perishes.

These times of covid have taught us much. Still in physical danger. We are lonely, confused, afraid. We are resentful, bitter, and jealous. Even if

Covid didn't steal the air from our lungs and put us in the ground, it has hurt us all. We are diminished from what we once were. Divorce, suicide, addiction, depression, abuse have all exploded, collateral damage of covid precautions. Families still divided in conflict. No one has been unscathed. No one has behaved with perfect wisdom or love.

People may say, "At least we have the internet. Think how much worse it would have been without it?" I disagree completely. The internet made it far more devastating. What the internet did was sweep us all up into people spinning data and opinions, of government intervention and judging others.

We need to repent. So much labor, focus on food, a life that perishes. We need to make deliberate efforts at limiting screen time, swearing off so-called "news," of mindless scrolling and watching. We need to engage in physical and mental activities that are healthy and recognize their spiritual aspects.

As with the people of Israel, even today the Lord hears the grumbling in covid times, grumblings of your life, and provides for physical needs, or it's just physical?

Our body and soul are intertwined. What happens to one is felt directly by the other. If your mother dies, you lose your appetite and feel sick. Nothing has happened directly to your body, only to your soul, but your body feels it. There are few things worse done to a body than that which the mind wreaks upon it by stress, worry, mental afflictions.

There is nothing in all of creation that is not spiritual, as though your body belonged to you, is your work. Taking care of the body, what you eat, who you eat with, are spiritual exercises. You are the baptized. Your life is not your own. You, body and soul belong to Him. Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Why you must honor God with your body.

What must we do to be doing the work of God they ask? What must you do? Nothing, It's His work to you. The labor for food that never perishes is His works. To do the works of God, is His work of forgiveness, salvation. And that is receiving and receiving and receiving. **Food that endures to eternal life**, never runs out.

Rejoice, your grumbling and sins have been answered upon His cross so He could give you today the joys and promises of life eternal, that your hunger, thirst is only satisfied in what He gives, that you receive here today. **Come near before the Lord, for He has heard you grumbling. And behold the glory of the Lord will appear before you... Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger; whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.**