



22 February 2023

Matthew 6.1-6, 17-18

'Nothing is more important than our interior lives'

It goes without saying, that of course Christians ought to give generously to those who are in need; that we should say our prayers regularly, and discipline our bodies – almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

It also goes without saying that at times we like to, or feel compelled to directly or more subtly tell people how good and kind we are!! If we don't fall into this hole, I suspect we fall into the dark hole of making ourselves feel good by being outwardly good. But if we fall into this trap we simply are deceiving ourselves.

Lent is a time to take a few more steps in allowing God to encourage us to, yes be more honest with ourselves but also to practice doing what we deep down know is good for God's world and our consciences.

The Good Samaritan can be an inspiration to us for he is naturally and sincerely kind to his neighbour, generous beyond belief, and clearly one who trusts God.

So, on this Ash Wednesday, perhaps you will join in with millions of other Christians praying that we will learn to be more naturally generous to others, more honest with ourselves, continue to discipline our lives, and ask for grace to help us to pray more generously and with greater love and magnanimity.

Stephen

Secret Service

Brother Jesus,
help us to listen to your voice and follow in your way –
to give to others without making a show of it,
to pray without shouting on street corners,
to fast without pained faces,
in all these things

God knows the truth of our hearts.

In all these things

God calls us to store treasures in heaven
not riches on earth.

At the start of this season of Lent, Brother Jesus,
enable us to walk with you to Jerusalem and the cross,
encourage us to reflect on our journey of discipleship.
Inspire us to secret service,
create in us a clean heart
and a new and right spirit within us.

Lindsey Sanderson
(2013)

