

SUNDAY PLUS

The heart's treasure



Real treasure

When Abraham and Sarah reach their promised land, they live there as strangers, not with the rights of citizens who belong there. They believe that their descendants will enjoy being citizens of the land. But Abraham looks even beyond that as he looks out of his tent: he looks to another city where the founder and the architect and the builder will be God. Abraham's faith enables him to see these things, not as part of his experience now, but "in the far distance". As Tennessee Williams noted: "Time is the longest distance between two places." Abraham looks to another time and to a place in which he can settle as a true homeland. In that homeland, he will share the address of God.

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

Abraham's deep faith in God enabled him to dare. Wherever he went he took his treasure with him; his treasure was part of him; he could not be separated from it even in time of trial. Abraham's real treasure was his faith in God, and his heart was in the same place as his treasure. That is something which Jesus hopes will be true of his own disciples. Jesus says that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". But the question that asks to be answered is: what is our real treasure?


The Gospel asks us: is our treasure the treasure that will not fail us? The kind of treasure Jesus talks about is the kind that cannot be stolen or destroyed. If we were all being burgled at this very moment, would we still have our treasure?

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk

In God's hands

"And when night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with him."

Edith Stein

Lord of life and love, take my heart and make it yours. Teach me to see the treasure you have placed within me and help me to see the richness in the hearts of others.  Amen.

"Riches are not like a statue, they are not stationary: riches have the tendency to grow, to move, to take their place in life and in a person's heart. This person who stores up treasures so as not to become a slave to poverty ends up a slave to treasures."

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Tuesday 9 August

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1891-1942)

Interesting! More people know of Edith Stein than Sr Teresa Benedicta of the Cross although they are the same person.

Edith, a German Jewish girl became an atheist, then a Catholic, a Discalced Carmelite nun and died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz on 9 August 1942.

Although living in a secluded Carmelite monastery in the Netherlands, after the Nazi

invasion in 1940, she recognised her Jewish origins would not escape their attention and began "quietly training herself for life in a concentration camp, by enduring cold and hunger. Following her arrest, Edith was offered an escape plan but chose, instead, to remain in solidarity with her fellow prisoners despite the inevitable outcome.

Edith wrote, "Let go of your plans. The first hour of your morning belongs to God. Tackle the day's work that he charges you with, and he will give you the power to accomplish it." That's something we can all do, isn't it?

Today: Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

Monday: Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28
Matthew 17:22-27

Tuesday: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
John 12:24-26

Thursday: Ezekiel 12:1-12
Matthew 18:21-19:1

Friday: Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63
Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday: Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32
Matthew 19:13-15

Next Sunday: (E,W&S) Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Luke 1:39-56

(I) Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53