

## ***“The Hidden Life of God’s Children”***

Jesus is doing some “people watching” – which, I’ve been told – was a popular social activity in His day. People would gather and watch as people placed their offerings in the treasury – but Jesus sees what we often fail to see.

The world is attracted by the “large sums” that certain people put into the offering box. It draws our attention, our praise, our admiration. And those giving the “large sums” would make a spectacle of it for this very reason – to be singled out from the crowds, to be the objects of others wishful desires.

Jesus warns us about such behavior. “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the place of honor at feasts ...”

While all the world is fixed on those who desire to be seen – Jesus sees the poor widow and her two small copper coins. Unnoticed by the world, and often devoured – Jesus sees her and commends her faith. She has given more than all the rest – she has given everything she had – her very life.

Such is the quiet, hidden life of God’s children – going about life, not to be seen by others – to be rewarded with the honor and praise of men – but a life that trusts in the Lord above all things.

Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Like the widow in the Old Testament reading who is down to a handful of flour and a little oil – with the Lord, the jar of flour and jug of oil does not run dry.

The child of God – though poor in the eyes of the world – has more than enough to live on because they have the greatest treasure of all – the Savior, Jesus Christ. In the face of life’s challenges – and in the face of death – the Lord is their life. [P]

So, what about you, and your daily life? What does that look like? Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife or worker?

Well, husbands, love your wives – not to be seen by the world and to have people rave about how great a husband you are (giving flowers and jewelry and expensive get-a-ways) – but in quiet and hidden ways – making the bed, taking out the trash, fixing supper (or, at least, giving suggestions for supper when she asks).

Pray for your wife, and with her. Take her to church so that she may be sanctified by the Word of God. The world will not notice, or care – but Jesus is pleased when you love your wife as He has loved His Bride, the Church.

Wives, love your husbands – not by shouting on Facebook that “He’s the greatest” – but quietly, and in hidden ways. See him as the one that God has given you for your good – listen to his struggles – hold him, and care for him.

Fathers & mothers, love your children – not with fancy new toys and stuffing them with cotton candy – but giving them a solid foundation – a stable home and marriage – structure and discipline so they can mature – and the peace of knowing that dad and mom love them unconditionally.

Sons and daughters – love your parents, honor them as you would honor the Lord. Don’t rebel against them, talk back to them – but listen and do what they say – be respectful with your words.

Again, the world doesn’t care about such things – and even sees it as a “poor” life and no way to live – but Jesus sees it and loves it when you live by faith – when Christ is your greatest treasure.

This quiet, hidden life of faith, sacrificing yourself for the sake of others – loving them as God desires – is not done in order to gain the attention of your fellow man, or God. Your offerings, and your sacrificial love for others does not earn you heavenly rewards – they are simply the fruit of faith – a life of contentment, because Jesus is your life.

To have Christ by faith is like the jar of flour and jug of oil that is never spent. With Him there is always more love, more grace. Because we fail to love our fellow man as He desires – and because we do not deserve His kindly favor – His forgiveness and grace are what we live on.

By His grace, He made Kira to be His beloved child – forgiving all her sin – and promising to be her Savior without end. By His grace, He feeds you with His very own forgiving Body and Blood so that you may not die, but live.

Again, the world sees no benefit in these things – but the Lord has revealed to you what is hidden from them – that He is at work through His Word and His Sacraments – caring for His children, poor sinners though we be.

Dearly beloved, what a treasure you have – that God the Holy Spirit has created a faith in you that trusts in Jesus Christ for your life and salvation – and that He nourishes and sustains that faith. So, whether you are rich or poor in the eyes of the world – in Christ Jesus, you are rich – even unto life everlasting. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.