

Thought for the week
3rd March 2019
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we read, or hear, what Jesus said to his disciples or the crowd, as retold by one of the four evangelists – today it's Luke - I sometimes wonder what he might actually have said.

There's no harm in letting our imagination get to work. It's a way of allowing Jesus to speak directly and personally to us, and us really engaging with the meaning behind his words.

Reflecting on Jesus' words in today's gospel I find myself being challenged, with great love, by questions like: *“why do you need to be so judgemental; what makes you think you're so special; are you really pretending you don't do much the same thing yourself; why don't you take a look in the mirror before you think those things?”*

Jesus directness, even when He is supposedly speaking in parables, is refreshing. Yes I hear a hint of frustration at my obtuseness, and a desire to uncover what's hidden, so that a bit of realism is restored. But I also feel Jesus' love; His longing to see me, you, us, recover a sense of perspective about things, about ourselves, about others. Of course we are blind at times, not least to our own faults. That's part of the human condition. And we do need to face that truth, to be honest with ourselves.

But, Jesus also wants us to understand that we are loved, as He is, by the Father. We don't need to take ourselves quite so seriously. If there is bad in us, there's good too. If we open ourselves to knowing Him better, listening more attentively to the loving words of our Father in heaven, letting Him fill our hearts rather than our petty obsessions about this or that, or grievances about so and so, then we will be fruitful.

There's so much more to life than meets our eye. If we just let things be, and focus on the good in others, rather than their faults, as well as the good in ourselves, the good in Him, things might make just a bit more sense .

A Parishioner