

Commentary on the Gospel for Tue, Mar 22nd 2011

Today's readings challenge us to beware of hypocrisy in our lives and to avoid the trap of appearing 'religious' to impress others. Rather than worry about externals and our status in the eyes of others we are called to cultivate a humility that attempts to see ourselves as God sees us. It is not power and status that brings salvation but rather a recognition of the utter gratuity of God's grace in our lives which is not something that we can earn. Yet how easy it is to overcomplicate our relationship with God, so like the Scribes and Pharisees the rules and religious practices become obstacles to our awareness of God's freely given love, rather than a preparation for entering more deeply into an experience of God's love.

Fr. Paul Smith, cmf