

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, February 16, 2025  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C

In the game of chess, if you lose your king, you lose the whole game – even if you still have all your other pieces. But if you checkmate your opponent's king, you win – even if you only have one pawn left. Life is like a game of chess, and “God is the King.” If we have God, we have everything – even if we have nothing else. But if we lose God, we have lost everything – even if we possess the whole world.

This truth is at the heart of today's gospel passage, where Jesus presents a radical teaching: *Blessed* are the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted. *Woe* to the rich, the full, the laughing, and the praised. At first glance, this is shocking. Does Jesus hate the rich? Does he want us to be miserable? No! Jesus is showing us the “great reversal” – that God's way is different from the world's way. The world tells us: Happiness comes from money, pleasure, power, and success. Jesus tells us: True happiness comes from God alone.

Think of an investor. A foolish investor puts everything into a failing company, blinded by short-term gains, and ends up losing everything. A wise investor, however, studies carefully, sees what will truly last, and invests in something secure. Jesus is asking us: Where is your investment? Are we

investing in temporary things – money, comfort, status, and fleeting pleasures? Or are we investing in eternal things – our faith, our relationship with God, and love for others? Many people invest their time, energy, and talents into things that do not last. They chase careers, wealth, and recognition but neglect their soul. What happens in the end? Just like a bad investment, everything disappears when life is over. How about you? Where is your investment?

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:19-20: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal.” “But store up treasures in heaven.” The saints teach us the wisdom of **detachment**. St. Ignatius of Loyola called it “**holy indifference**” – not that we don’t care about life, but that we are free from being controlled by material things. We must learn to ‘detach’ from riches, pleasure, and power – not because they are evil, but because they will never fully satisfy. Only God can.

Let us examine our hearts today:

1. Where do we spend most of our time and energy? Is it only for earthly success, or do we take time for prayer, worship, and service?
2. What do we worry about the most? Are we more anxious about material things than about our spiritual life?
3. What gives us true joy? Does our happiness depend on wealth and comfort, or do we find joy in God’s presence?

The truth is, only God can truly fulfill us. Everything else fades. If we lose our King (God), we have lost everything. But if we hold onto him, even if we have nothing else, we have already won. This is what it means to invest in God: to seek him first, knowing that he alone satisfies our deepest hunger.

Life is short. One day, we will stand before God, and all our worldly investments will no longer matter. What will remain is the love we gave, the faith we lived, and the trust we placed in God. So today, Jesus asks us: **Where is your investment?**

Are we building our lives on temporary things that will pass away? Or are we investing in God's kingdom, where true joy and eternal life await?

**Let us choose wisely. Let us keep our King.**