

**To Think That You Have Control is an Illusion**

All human beings are in search of the same thing. We all want to be happy, but in the search for it, we often think that we can control our journey. ...Today's readings say otherwise...

In the first reading, the book of Ecclesiastes tells us of a vain illusion, spending life working, thinking that everything important is achieved materially, that our **happiness** is in the material, is a vain illusion.

**What is a vain illusion?** A hope or belief that is futile or purposeless.

The book of Psalms tells us why it is vain illusion, it tells us that **our life is as short as a dream**, and we are not in control of things as we often think we are.

Jesus in the gospel is more direct and says in his parable that **we are foolish if we put all our effort into things that are worthless before God.**

The second reading then teaches us how we can let go of the vain illusion, focus on what is real and achieve true happiness... **Putting our hearts on the goods above, putting God first.**

In other words, our day-to-day activities can be a vain illusion, if we do not have our hearts in the things that are worth it to God, if we do not have God first and we should remember that we are not in control of everything. Everything we have can go in a blink of an eye.

I met a very successful couple they married young and focused on their careers and jobs, they decided not to have children until they were stable in their careers. Both reached good executive positions in different international companies. After time had passed, they wanted to have children, but the time for them to be able to conceive had passed, so they continued to work hard to reach retirement and be able to enjoy their retirement traveling the world. When they were able to retire, they had an accident that left them both disabled, their plans to travel the world changed, their illusion, their efforts of so many years lost their meaning. They were retired, with a lot of money, alone because they had no children and each one had resentment towards the other, because of how things had happened... **To Think That You Have Control is an Illusion....**

I also remember on my wedding day we thought we had everything under control, but it was the opposite... My wife was 1 hour late for church, the photographer's camera broke, the flowers at the reception were carnations and we paid for roses, the DJ bought a set of speakers and decided to try for the first time at our wedding, the speakers were faulty and overheated and the worst part was that my wife's grandmother had a stroke at the reception. We thought we had everything under control, but To Think That You Have Control is an Illusion...

Think of your lives, how many times have you left 10 minutes early for work and you arrive 10 minutes late, because of an accident or road issues.

Think of the global pandemic called COVID... Think of our current war... Think of the problem of terrorism, random shootings... How many of us has control over any or all of these?

When you think about it, there are very few things that we have direct control over. That is why To Think That You Have Control is an Illusion

Mother Teresa of Calcutta has a quote that I love, it states:

**“Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is not yet here, what we have is today, the present, let's start”**

This phrase is great **advice for us**, – yesterday is gone... at times we live in nostalgia, we compare what was, with what is, time, culture, economy, generations, and we remain stuck in the past. At times, due to negative situations, we stay in what we did in the past... if I had done this my husband would still be here... if I had done this my children... if I had done this...

But the past is gone, it will not return, we cannot control it, it is a vain illusion to try to control what has already happened... Let us not torment ourselves with what we cannot control, God gives us the opportunity to leave it at his feet and move forward.

The next statement in the quote states – tomorrow is not yet here... at times we live focused on the future, what will be, what we can do, we think that our end will never come, we do not take advice from the elders. Remember all the elders were young, but not all the young will be elders... we need to listen to the advice of the elders, at times we think we can design or control our destiny, but control is an illusion.

What we have is the present, the present is our current life, God gives us the opportunity to desire the goods of heaven, but not in the past, not in the future... today... Why is TODAY so important? Because TODAY I MAKE THE DECISION... our decision to follow him, to love him, to seek the goods of heaven, TODAY'S DECISION is something that you can CONTROL. Let us thank God for the true happiness that is eternity with him and the opportunity of leaving the past at his feet, the future on his hands and be grateful for today.