



Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Why be envious because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

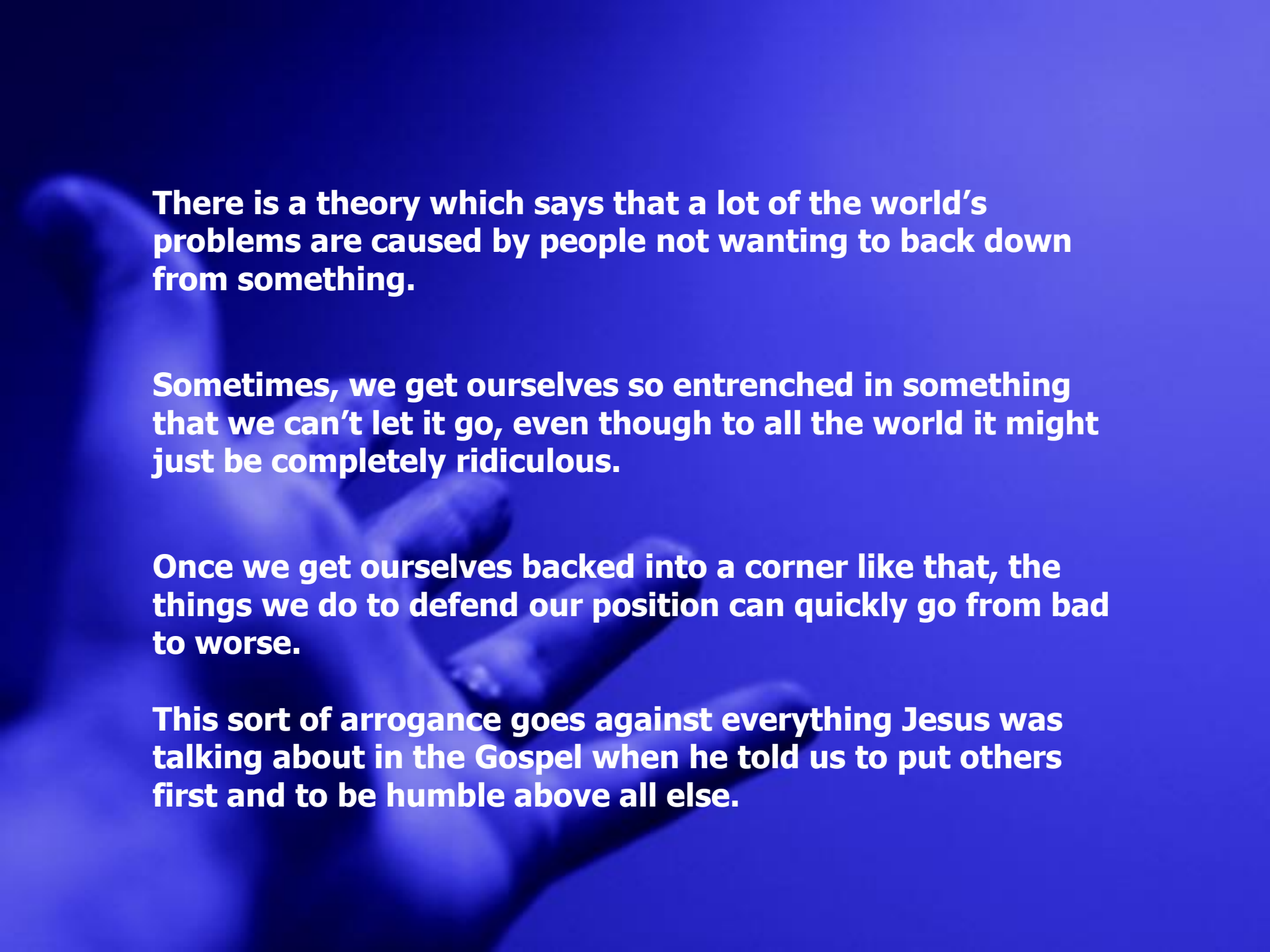
The Gospel of the Lord

Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:
Has your ego ever got you into trouble?



There is a theory which says that a lot of the world's problems are caused by people not wanting to back down from something.

Sometimes, we get ourselves so entrenched in something that we can't let it go, even though to all the world it might just be completely ridiculous.

Once we get ourselves backed into a corner like that, the things we do to defend our position can quickly go from bad to worse.

This sort of arrogance goes against everything Jesus was talking about in the Gospel when he told us to put others first and to be humble above all else.

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

Help us to know when it is right to fight for something, and when it is right to put our own will to one side for the sake of something greater. Make we always be slow to judge, quick to make peace and generous in valuing those around us.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN



Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

***Reflection: This week's Gospel ends with
one of the most famous phrases in the bible: 'the
last will be first, and the first, last.'***



'..the last will be first, and the first, last'

What you have to understand about Jesus is that he came to upset the established order. He had no interest in protecting the strong and the important. In fact, a lot of the time he wanted to upset them and challenge them to look out for the weak and the unloved. Those people were 'the last' to be thought of in Jesus' time, and he wanted to put them first.

Have a think:

Who do you put first in your life?...

In your decisions and choices? ...

Is it ever the weak and the vulnerable? ...

Final Prayer



LOVING FATHER...

May we have the generosity, the love and the wisdom to see the world with your eyes.

May we always see the people the world puts last, and may we reach out a loving hand.

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

AMEN.

Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

***The Church celebrates the feast of St Vincent De Paul
this week***



Prayer Three

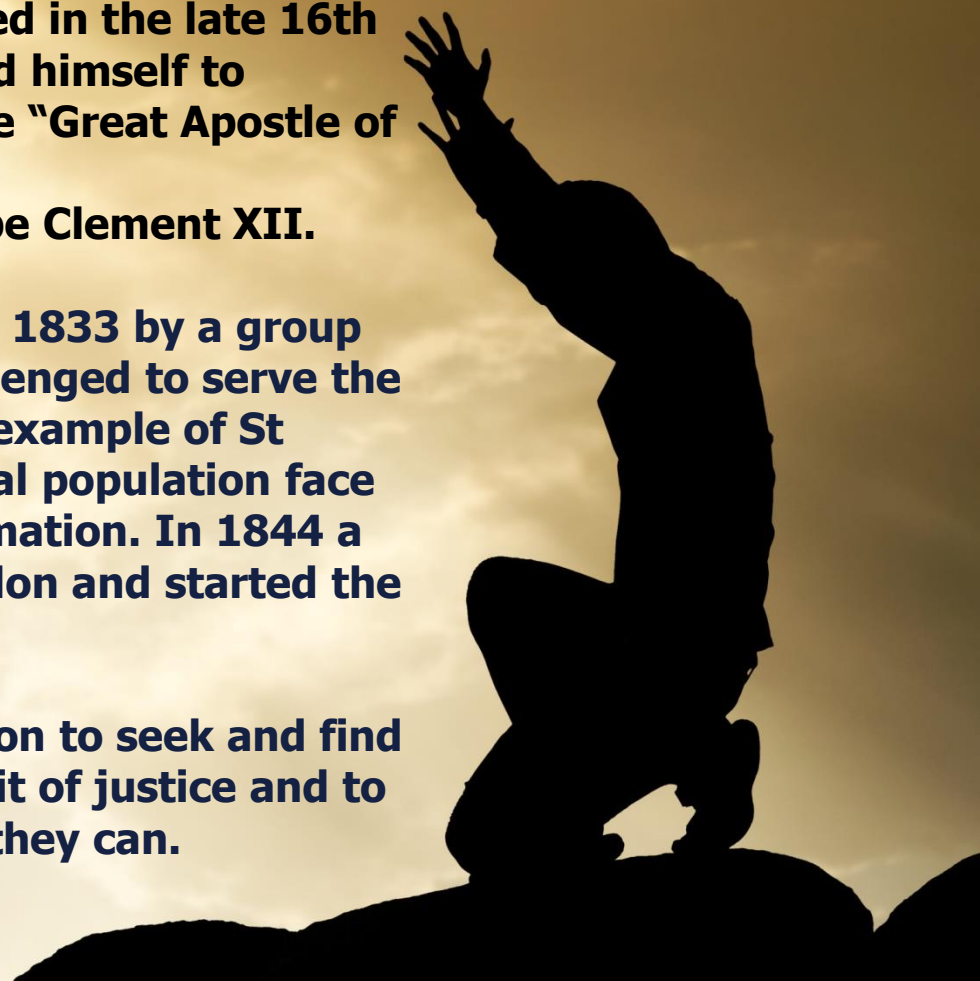
Many of you will have heard of “the SVP” - the society that bears his name and does so much good charitable work, but few people know that much about the man himself.

Vincent was a French priest who lived in the late 16th and early 17th century. He dedicated himself to serving the poor and is known as the “Great Apostle of Charity.”

He was made a Saint in 1737 by Pope Clement XII.

The SVP The Society was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris. They were challenged to serve the poor of the city and inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul, they served the local population face to face, as part of their spiritual formation. In 1844 a group of men came together in London and started the first group in Britain.

Today SVP still exists with the mission to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where they can.



Final Prayer

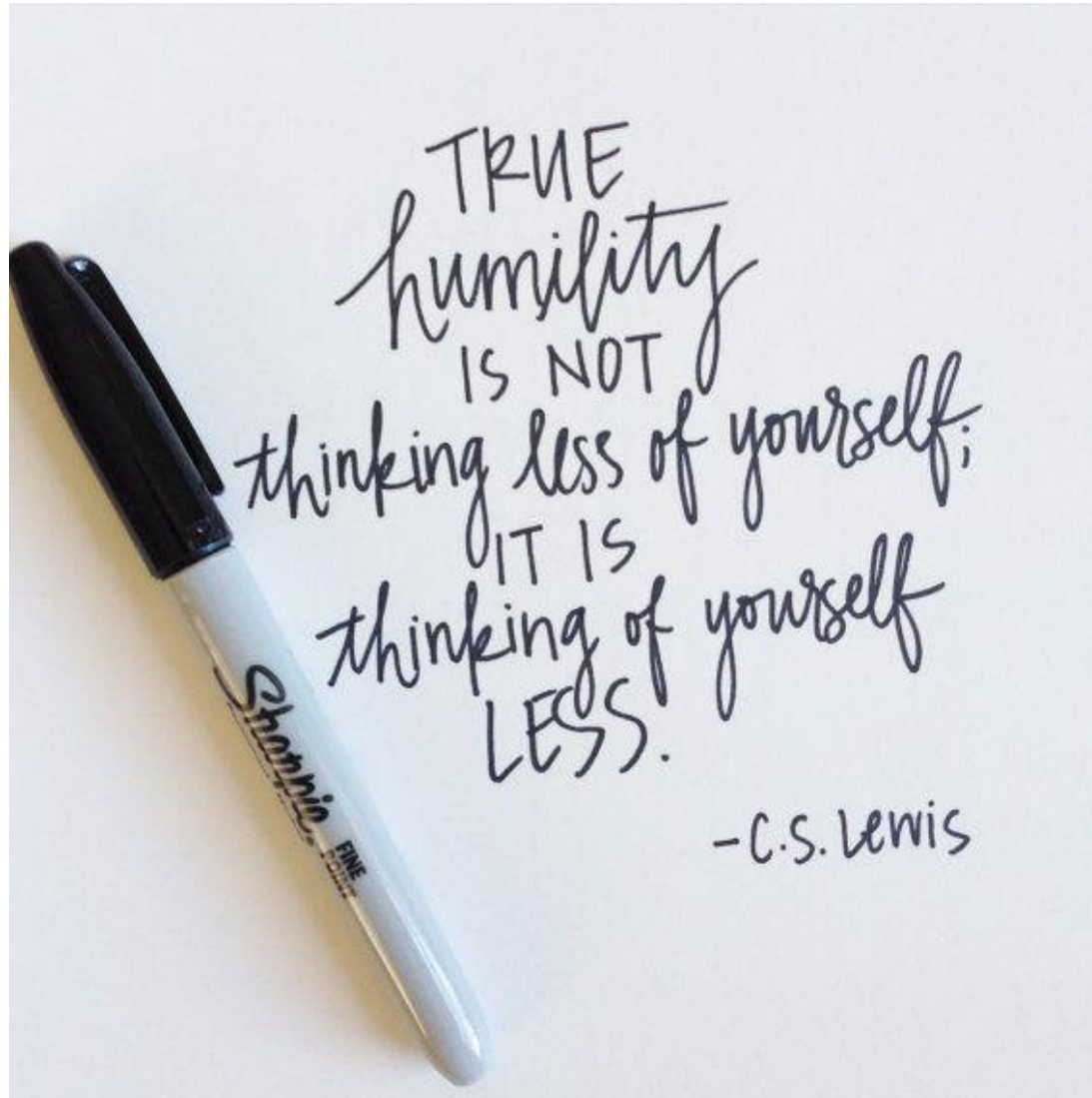
St Vincent De Paul



Pray for us



Final Thought...



Next Week: Obedience