

“Is the image which I project the real me?” Wednesday in 21st Week August 26th, 2020. (2Thess 3:6-10, 16-18, Mt 23:27-32)

In today’s gospel Jesus accuses the Scribes and Pharisees as being hypocrites. Actually, the word “Pharisaic” is equated with the word hypocrisy. Jesus tells them, “...you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and all kinds of filth.” So, there is no harmony between what the Pharisees show outside and what they show internally. They are no better than whitewashed tombs because they neglect justice and mercy and hold on to the legalism of the laws. What they preach does not correspond to what they practice.

Sometimes we too may be guilty of being pharisaic when we try to look good in the eyes of people but try to hide the bones and filths in our lives. We naturally don’t want people to see the vulnerable and sinful sides of ourselves. The Jews used to whiten the exterior of the tombs so that they can be clearly seen. So, if the tombs are clearly seen, they would avoid polluting themselves by touching them or walking on them. The image a movie actor projects in the movie is not his real self. His real self is what happens behind the scene or what happens after acting. Is the image which I project outside the real me?

In our first reading from 2Thessalonians, Paul reminds us that the goodness within us comes from God. He says it is the Spirit of God within us that enables us to give God true and authentic worship. Jesus said in John 4:23, “the hour is coming when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.” May God help us not be hypocritical like the Pharisees but become humble and faithful worshippers despite our broken and sinful nature. **Amen. By Fr Emmanuel Subaar**