

Sunday Scriptures for The Feast of St. Francis

(moved from Oct 4th to Sept 25th, 2022)

For Reflection: It is perhaps “tricky” to know which direction to look when we think about St. Francis of Assisi:

- toward the apocryphal scene where Francis removes his elegant clothing in the town square as indication of his “divestment” from a world of money and power
- or toward the also apocryphal wolf he tamed, as a holy investment with the creatures of God.

Both matter.

Dealing in what we now know as “economic justice” may seem far removed from a deep awareness of and concern for living creatures of all kinds as our call as followers of Jesus. However, when we spend even a little time with this version of this week’s Gospel, we will see more:

Matt. 11: 28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

1. Where are the “new creations” for those of us who are old?
2. Where do you see God’s grace around you, both in the realm of “economic justice” as well as that of God’s creatures?
3. Where does your faith contribute to your “investments” and your “divestments”, both economic and in Creation?
4. What is your prayer this week?
5. What is God’s call to you now, today?

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Woe to the ones who build their houses by unrighteousness, and their upper rooms by injustice; who make their neighbors work for nothing, and do not give them their wages; who says, ‘I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms,’ and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

Psalm 148:7-14 The Saint Helena Psalter

7 Praise God from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow, and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;
9 Mountains and all hills, *

fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;

11 Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, * leaders & all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens, * old and young together.
13 Let them praise your Name, O God,

for your Name only is exalted, your splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, * the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Hallelujah!

Epistle: Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers, and sisters. Amen.

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30 La Biblia de las Américas

25 En aquel tiempo, hablando Jesús, dijo: Te alabo, Padre, Señor del cielo y de la tierra, porque ocultaste estas cosas a sabios e inteligentes, y las revelaste a los niños.
26 Sí, Padre, porque así fue de tu agrado. 27 Todas las cosas me han sido entregadas por mi Padre; y nadie conoce al Hijo, sino el Padre, ni nadie conoce al Padre, sino el Hijo, y aquel a quien el Hijo se lo quiera revelar. 28 Venid a mí, todos los que estáis cansados y cargados, y yo os haré descansar. 29 Tomad mi yugo sobre vosotros y aprended de mí, que soy manso y humilde de corazón, y hallareis descanso para vuestras almas. 30 Porque mi yugo es fácil y mi carga ligera.

The Message Matt 11:25-30

Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: "Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You've concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that's the way you like to work."

27 Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. "The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I'm not keeping it to myself; I'm ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."