

February 25, 2010

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Who or what sets the agenda for your life?

If you are like many people in our society, you have many commitments. There are any number of expectations placed upon you, asking for your time, attention, and energy. External demands can be heavy. You also may have a hard time saying no, bringing some of this condition on yourself. All the while, your deepest dreams--the truly important goals and purposes of your life--get shoved to the side while you deal with the urgent concerns that appear moment by moment.

Life in 2010 sometimes feels like being a pinball, out-of-control, helplessly bounced around a machine with someone else controlling the flippers.\*

On top of it all, the season of Lent asks for more time for spiritual life, for prayer, for Bible reading, for worship, for silent reflection, for soul-searching and confession. Unfortunately, our spiritual lives are sacrificed amid the urgency of daily life.

Today's Scripture reading reminds us that amid the worries and challenges of life, we can trust God. Jesus assures us that when we put God first--"strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness"--everything else will fall into place.

In prayer, ask God to help you set the agenda for your life. Ask for the courage and faith to put God first. The world will not come to an end if you mark your calendar and set aside time everyday to pay attention to God. In fact, the rest of your day just might go more smoothly when you put God first.

\*If you don't know what a pinball machine is, check this out:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinball>