

Daily Morning Message

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Friday, April 30, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings Psalm 22:25-31
 Amos 8:11-13
 Acts 8:9-25

Today's Scripture Verse: *Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"*

What it means: Simon was a magician, who amazed people with his magical arts, and many thought that he was a great man because of them. But his was not a gift of faith but of simple skill to fool the eyes. He did not understand that spiritual gifts come from God and are to be used, not to enrich those who receive them but to carry out God's will. This is a mistake still made by those who seek to become wealthy by claiming to have such magical gifts.

Our time of reflection: God, grant us the gift to discern the difference between genuine spirituality and magical religion. Promising earthly benefits in exchange for faith or worldly goods is always wrong; and it is still practiced in our world today. Health and prosperity come to all, whether good or bad, faithful or faithless. The rewards for faithfulness are love, joy and peace; and these cannot be bought at any price.

