

TREASURE IN FIELD

He goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

This Gospel can be seen as a clear example not of the necessity for treasure,
but of the need of poverty.

The tradition of poverty in the life of the church is one that has been romanticised and thus abused. There is nothing good about the hunger of a child or the desperation of an anxious parent who is unable to provide. The poverty created by injustice or ignorance is an offence crying out in the face of God.

This aspect of poverty is not praised or honoured in that church tradition as exemplified by St Francis of Assisi or Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Perhaps the easiest way to understand the Christian notion of poverty is to change the word itself .To say that St Francis was a shining example faithful simplicity. To recognise that the lack of possessions owned by Mother Teresa were as a consequence of her simple lifestyle.

This then has the authentic ring of common sense to it that is so essential to any Christian doctrine.

In the modern age more than ever we complicate our lives and then get lost in the detail. Simplicity is the key.

He goes off, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

She was going to see her mother after work .Just call in and give her the card and wish her happy birthday. But first she had to buy a card .So this would be an opportunity to call at the supermarket and do the shopping .Meaning she could buy some frozen pizzas for tea which would be shovelled down the neck of her son before he went to cubs, and she went to keep fit and see her friends.

The mother did not really need an expensive card; she needed time with her daughter. The family did not actually need shopping, there was plenty of food in the house and the son who hated cubs needed his mother to talk to him.

Indeed her friends as they watched her arrive late and leave early always commented on how never really got involved.

Mother family friends all felt excluded from her complex life.

Where in this vast jungle is her treasure. She may offend her mother. She may say the word NO to her son .She may even spend some real time with her friends. But she can not do it all at once. There is an essential need for greater simplicity.

She must drop at least something and buy the field.

And so on and so forth.

He possesses everything and owns nothing because it is all on the plastic.

The girl has read half the new Harry Potter book, finished half of the decoration of her room, and missed half of her piano lessons.

He is the unfinished craftsman. That is each job he ever started was too ambitious, or fell victim too a lack of time.

All are trying to have and do everything all at once.

The Christian tradition of simplicity proclaims that very many things do have to be sacrificed in order to do the valuable things well.

You only have one life .You only have one chance.
So drop many of the things which are cluttering your life.
Seek out the treasure and buy the field.

SIMPLICITY SIMPLICITY SIMPLICITY