



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Fr. Timothy's Homily for Mass Celebrating his 90th Birthday
Matthew 25.14-30

CAST HIM OUT INTO THE EXTERIOR DARKNESS

This parable and the morals drawn from it are very familiar to us, so let me invite your attention to just one word in it: **DARKNESS. THEY CAST HIM OUT INTO THE DARKNESS**
As soon as we hear that word, we probably think of its opposite, **LIGHT**. If we do, we are well in line with biblical thinking, where the two, light and darkness, are constantly being contrasted.

1. Literally and physically the contrast is between night and day: the light of the sun and the darkness of night, the absence of the sun. And in the days before electricity and Coleman lamps, the night really was **dark**. By day people could see their way, by night they stumbled.
2. Light then easily became a symbol of life, happiness and joy.
And dark easily became a symbol of death, unhappiness, misery, enslavement and sin.
3. Next light becomes a symbol of the good: The kingdom of light is Christ's kingdom;
Darkness becomes a symbol of evil & sin: The kingdom of darkness is Satan's kingdom.
4. Finally light is the symbol of truth, of seeing and of believing;
Darkness is the symbol of lies, blindness, denial, and unbelief.

So there is a great wealth of symbolism in that one word, **DARKNESS** in today's Gospel: night, death, unhappiness, misery, enslavement, sin, lies, blindness, denial, and unbelief.

We must ask ourselves are there any patches of darkness in us, in me? If so, we must turn to Jesus, who said 'I am the **light** of the world', and ask him to help us that we may walk in the light, that we may be children of the light, **that we may see**.