Homily: Rightly Rendering Kind and Empire

Is 45:1-7, Ps 96:1-6, 1 Thes. 1:1-5

Question: Where is you hope placed? Because: Your hope is only as good as the object in which it is placed.

God has forever been wanting to establish the Kingdom of Love on earth where Love is the King. But ever since the fall, humankind has insisted that it knows better and attempted to assert its own Empire as the hope of the soul.

Why do we prefer our own Empire? We think it offers us some kind of control. In our own Empire, we can fight to have your own way. In the Kingdom of love you have to lay down all demands and surrender to love.

How could Jesus ever support any political Empire when He came to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth?

Homily Outline:

1. Rightly Rendering—
   The political Realm

2. The Religious Realm – Def: "*relegare*"—tie back together and bind.
   God is not in the rules, rituals, or liturgy of any form of religion. All religious practices have one purpose—to bind us together in an experience of God. ~Francis Thomas

3. The Personal Realm –Image Bearers. Matt 25
   Caesar's image on coin, God's image on you.

Practice: Keep your heart in the right relationship Politically, Religiously, and Personally. "Above all else, keep your heart with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life," Proverbs 4:23