

matters as an individual. In this context Dr Sacks relates that (the then) Prince Charles at a banquet spent as much time talking to young schoolchildren in the choir as he did to the great and the good among the guests. He says: *“That, at least in Britain, is what royalty is and does. Members of the royal family make other people feel important. That is their work, their service, their role..”*

Pope Francis has said on this central tenet of our faith: *“The basis for the theme of Human Dignity, the bedrock of Catholic Social Teaching, is that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. Regardless of any factors or reasons we can think of, individuals have an inherent and immeasurable worth and dignity. Each person is unique and special. Human life is considered sacred. This theme is about our radical equality before God that leads us to think no less of somebody because they are from a different place or culture, because they believe something different to you, or because of their work or employment situation.”*

As Dr Sacks quotes towards the end of his chapter: *“Who is honoured? One who honours others”*. He concludes by suggesting that we are as important as we make others feel. (1)Judaism’s Life-Changing Ideas **-Stephen S**

Entrance antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

Responsorial Psalm: 14: The just will live in the presence of the Lord. /R

Second Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22,27

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark: 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.



Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024

Weekly Reflection: Some thoughts of Dr Jonathan Sacks (5): Made in the image and likeness of God : A chapter in the book (1) of Dr Sacks, the former

Chief Rabbi, addresses the belief that we are each made in the image and likeness of God. He describes this as one of the most extraordinary of all Jewish beliefs. It is a belief that we, as Christians, fully share, coming as it does from Genesis (1:26): *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..”*. Dr Sacks says that it means that every one of us has infinite value, each one of us is unique. This was not a value in the ancient pagan world, nor is it one in tyrannical or totalitarian societies of the modern world. In such societies the ruler, and perhaps some others would be deemed to have infinite value, but certainly not the masses; most people would be regarded as just part of a mass, an army, a workforce or a gang of slaves. Their individual lives, hopes and fears, loves and dreams as individuals are of no real significance. Just as in the Egypt of the Pharaohs, so in the modern day people in some countries seem to be thought of as ‘just numbers’. The truth is that we are each one a child of God, made in His image and likeness. And yet, at the same time we are God’s servants, we are His sheep. This difficult concept was put in context by another Rabbi who said that we should each have two pockets. In one pocket we should put a piece of paper with the words: *“For my sake the world was created”*; in the other pocket should be the words: *“I am but dust and ashes”*. The implication is that we are unique, each having non-negotiable dignity an inalienable right. But, in and of ourselves we are nothing. Our greatness comes not from us but from God.

These truths have a critical consequence that each person being a child of God, what matters is not how we see ourselves, but how we see, and treat, and behave towards every other person. Nobody should feel that they are merely a number. Everyone is important, everyone should be made to feel important. Nobody should feel that they are taken for granted. Everybody