

HANDOUT

The Two Standards

Grace: "Here it will be to ask for insight into the deceits of the evil leader, and for help to guard myself against them; and further, for insight into the genuine life which the supreme and truthful commander sets forth, and grace to imitate him."

"More than ever, I find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth. But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God. It is indeed a profoundly spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God's hands." Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

The Three Classes of Persons or Jesuits

Grace: "Here I will ask for the grace to choose that which is more to the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of my soul."

In Ignatius's version he presents three persons who have acquired a large sum of money, ten thousand ducats, "but not purely or properly for the love of God." I would urge you to consider three types of Jesuits who receive twenty or more years of life than they expected when they were young. There is nothing inappropriate or impure about these added years. It is a pure gift.

The Person Typical of the First Class wants to find God in peace and attain salvation in his use of these added years of life. But, as Ignatius writes, "this person does not take the means, even to the hour of death." In other words, this type of Jesuit goes through a long life without paying much attention to the gift he has received and how God is calling him to fulfill the purpose of his life in and through the use of these years.

The Person Typical of the Second Class also wants to find God in peace and attain salvation in his use of these added years of life, but in such a way that he will do what he desires "and that thus God will come to where this person desires. No decision is made about how "to go to where God is, even though that would be the better state for this individual." In other words, this type of Jesuit plans to use the years in the way he thinks best.

The Person Typical of the Third Class wants to use this gift of years in a way that is indifferent and only "according to what God our Lord will move [his] will to choose, and also, according to what the person himself...will judge to be better for the service and praise of the Divine Majesty. The remainder of Ignatius's description of this person typical of the Third Class needs little change. This type of Jesuit is indifferent as to how he will use these added years, his motivation is solely "the service of God our Lord" and to choose, "in such a way that the desire to be able to serve God our Lord better is what moves one to take or reject and object whatsoever."