



Lobbying God—the best way to change the world

22nd October 2016, Errwood Reservoir, Young Adults Group

Mt 7:7-11 “Ask, and the gift will come; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened to you. Everyone that asks, will receive; that seeks, will find; that knocks, will have the door opened to him. If any one of yourselves is asked by his son for bread, will he give him a stone? If he is asked for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead? Why then, if you, evil as you are, know well enough how to give your children what is good for them, is not your Father in Heaven much more ready to give wholesome gifts to those who ask Him?”

- Who moves the world?

- First Cause: contrast notion of chain reaction with enduring Mover.
 - **All things are in God's Hands.** Ps 103:27-30 “And all look to thee to send them their food at the appointed time; it is through thy gift they find it, thy hand opens, and all are filled with content. But see, thou hidest thy face, and they are dismayed; thou takest their life from them, and they breathe no more, go back to the dust they came from. Then thou sendest forth thy spirit, and there is fresh creation; thou dost repeople the face of earth.”
- Diverting a river from its source
- Flight: destination more important than posture or cabin. Rome or Mecca. Fundamentals matter.

- Reason to ‘lobby’

- Hunger. Wars. Exploitation of workers and resources. Family / personal issues.
- Who shapes society and history? How to please Him. What to ask Him.

- Cf Lobbying worldly powers

- What to say: Main purpose; strategy; colour; open manner
- Presentable / How to dress: covered in virtue, made clean in Confession (shower), scented by modesty / cheerfulness.
 - Ps 65:18 “Would God listen to me, if my heart were set on wrong?”



- Well-informed on subject and on person being lobbied.
- Best in a group accompanied by a close contact of the one to be lobbied.
- Must be flexible / responsive to the one being lobbied.
- Perseverance: Lk 18:1-8 “And He told them a parable, shewing them that they ought to pray continually, and never be discouraged. ‘There was a city once,’ He said, ‘in which lived a judge who had no fear of God nor regard for man; and there was a widow in this city who used to come before him and say, ‘Give me redress against one who wrongs me’. For a time he refused; but then he said to himself, ‘Fear of God I have none, nor regard for man, but this widow wearies me; I will give her redress, or she will wear me down at last with her visits.’ ‘Listen,’ the Lord said, ‘to the words of the unjust judge, and tell me, **will not God give redress to His elect, when they are crying out to Him, day and night?** Will He delay? I tell you, He will give them redress with all speed. **But ah, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith left on the earth?**”

- No alternative—God or nothing

- Ps 32:16-21 “There is no protection for kings in powerful armies, for warriors in abundant prowess; nor shall horses bring thee the mastery, brute strength that cannot save. It is the Lord, watching over those who fear him and trust in his mercy, that will protect their lives, will feed them in time of famine. Patiently we wait for the Lord’s help; he is our strength and our shield; in him our hearts will find contentment, in his holy name we trust.”
- Ps 117:7-9 “Dóminus mihi adiutor: et ego despíciam inimícos meos. Bonum est confídere in Dómino, quam confídere in hómīne: Bonum est speráre in Dómino, quam speráre in princípibus.”
- Zach 4:6 “By arms, by force nothing canst thou; my spirit is all, says the Lord of hosts.”
- Ps 59:13-14 “Da nobis auxílium de tribulatióne: **quia vana salus hómīnis**. In Deo faciémus virtútem: et ipse ad níhilum dedúcet tribulánte nos.”
- Ps 74:7-8 “Look east, look west, it will avail you nothing; no help comes from the desert, or the high hills; **it is God who rules all**, humbling one man and exalting another.”
- Maccabees **R**: Ut cognoscant, quia non est alius qui pugnet pro nobis, nisi tu Deus noster.



- God Defends Israel: material << spiritual goods

- Ps 19:8-10 “Shall I doubt that the Lord protects the king he has anointed, will listen to him from his sanctuary in heaven? Is not his right hand strong to save? Let others talk of horses and chariots; our refuge is the name of the Lord our God. Stumbled and fallen they, while we stand firm on our feet. O Lord, save the king, and hear us in the hour when we call upon thee.”
- Ps 45:6-8 “God dwells within her, and she stands unmoved; with break of dawn he will grant her deliverance. Nations may be in turmoil, and thrones totter, earth shrink away before his voice; but the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.”
- Ps 120:4-5 “Such a guardian has Israel, one who is never weary, never sleeps; it is the Lord that guards thee, the Lord that stands at thy right hand to give thee shelter.”
- Ps 131:18 “I will cover his enemies with confusion; on his brow the crown I gave shall shine untarnished.”
- Ps 67:2-3 “Let God bestir himself, needs must his foes be scattered, their malice take flight before his coming. Vanish the wicked before the Face of God as the smoke vanishes, as wax melts at the fire...”

- But we must seek higher goods

- Ps 30 contains’ “Into Thy hands I commend My Spirit”. It concerns the Passion. It is vital to ‘lobby’ for spiritual things above material. The ultimate enemy is satan.
- Ps 30:13-18 “I am lost to memory, like a dead man, discarded like a broken pitcher. On every side their busy whispering comes to my ears; peril all around, so powerful the conspiracy that threatens my life. And still, Lord, my trust in thee is not shaken; still I cry, Thou art my God, my fate is in thy hand; save me from the enemy’s power, save me from my pursuers! Smile on thy servant once more, and deliver me in thy mercy; Lord, do not let me plead in vain. Disappoint the wicked of their hopes, hurl them down thwarted into the abyss.”
- Lk 12:29-32 “You should not be asking, then, what you are to eat or drink, and living in suspense of mind; it is for the heathen world to busy itself over such things; your Father knows well that you need them. **No, make it your first care to find the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be yours without the asking.** Do not be afraid, you, My little flock. **Your Father has determined to give you His Kingdom.**”



- Pray

- Ps 49:14-15 “Ímmola Deo sacrificium laudis: et redde Altíssimo vota tua. Et ínvoca me in die tribulatiónis: éruam te, et honorificábis me.”
- Ps 86:2 “The Lord loves the gates of Sion more than all the other dwellings of Jacob.”

- Queen Esther—Clothed in Humility: Worship God then ask the king

- Esther 14:1-7 “And Esther the queen, seized with deathly anxiety, fled to the Lord; she took off her splendid apparel and put on the garments of distress and mourning, and instead of costly perfumes she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she utterly humbled her body, and every part that she loved to adorn she covered with her tangled hair. And she prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said: ‘O my Lord, thou only art our King; help me, who am alone and have no helper but thee, for my danger is in my hand. Ever since I was born I have heard in the tribe of my family that thou, O Lord, didst take Israel out of all the nations, and our fathers from among all their ancestors, for an everlasting inheritance, and that thou didst do for them all that thou didst promise. And now we have sinned before thee, and thou hast given us into the hands of our enemies, because we glorified their gods. Thou art righteous, O Lord!...’”
- Esther 15:4-11 “When the third day came, she laid aside the garb of prayer, and put on all her fine array, queenly robes that dazzled the eye. One prayer she offered to the God who alone rules, alone can save; then bade two of her waiting-maids bear her company. On one she leant, as though her dainty form must needs be supported; the other followed her mistress as train-bearer. Alluring beauty of flushed cheek and shining eye hid a heart grief-stricken, a heart chilled with an overwhelming fear. Door after door she passed, till she reached the king’s presence, where he sat on his royal throne, royally clad, amid a glitter of gold and jewels; terrible of mien. No sooner had he looked up, his fiery glance betraying his angry humour, than the queen swooned away; white went her cheeks, as she leaned her head, fainting, on the maid that stood by. And now God changed the king’s mood all at once to mildness; he started from his throne in trembling haste, and was fain to hold her in his arms till she came to herself; and still with soothing words he reassured her...”
- Esther 5:3 “And the king said to her, ‘What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom.’”



- World Peace in Holy Mass

- Cardinal Manning: “*All conflict is ultimately theological.*” Therefore so is peace!
- Not that we instrumentalise God; nor seek to subvert Heaven for an earthly end. Rather, there is already peace on earth: the angels have announced it— *Gloria*— and Jesus has brought it. Come and be part of it.
- Ps 121:6 “Pray for all that brings Jerusalem peace! May all who love thee dwell at ease!”
- Ultimately our love for God is to be adoration without any petition. If we give up our good aims in order to worship Him, He will more than supply for them.

- The Blessed Virgin Mary

- Magnificat: Lk 1:51-53 “He has shown strength with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts; He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.”
- Queen Bathseba: 1 Kings 1:13-31 “[Nathan said] Go and demand access to king David’s presence; ask him openly, ‘My lord King, didst thou not promise me, thy handmaid, upon oath, to let my son Solomon be thy heir, and succeed to thy throne? How comes it that Adonias is king?’ And while thou art still speaking, I will come in after thee, and lend weight to these words of thine. So Bethsabée gained access to the king’s own room, where he sat, an old, old man, with Abisag the Sunamite in attendance on him. Low was the reverence Bethsabée made, and when the king asked what was her will, she answered, ‘My lord, thou didst swear to me by the Lord thy God that my son Solomon should be thy heir, and succeed to thy throne; and here is Adonias already reigning, while thou, my lord king, art kept in ignorance... My lord king, all Israel looks to thee for a sign, to know who shall sit on thy royal throne after thee... [King David swore] ‘...in the name of the Lord God of Israel, that thy son Solomon should be my heir and succeed to my throne, shall be fulfilled this day.’ And Bethsabée, bowing her face to the ground, did reverence: ‘Unending life, said she, to my lord king David!’”