

Christ the King A - 2020

The forgiving King:

Rev. Tony Campolo says that in his teenage years he was terrified by a visiting pastor's depiction of Judgment Day. This pastor claimed that one day God would show us a movie of every single sinful thought, word, or action we ever committed. And he ended his lurid description with the announcement, "And your mother will be there!"

But Tony claims that Judgment Day will more closely mirror what happened during the trials over the Watergate scandal. The prosecutor brought in a tape of a conversation between Nixon and his aides. Just at the most crucial part of the tape, the section that revealed their crimes, there was an eighteen-minute gap of silence.

Nixon's faithful secretary, Rosemary Wood, had erased the incriminating evidence! In the same way, Campolo says, Jesus will erase all the incriminating evidence against us, as he did for the repentant thief crucified at his right side. (Fr. Tony) <http://frtonyshomilies.com/>

Judgment: The Sound of Money for the Smell of Food

A hungry man was walking down the street in a village of medieval Turkey. He had only a piece of bread in his hand. He came to a restaurant where some meatballs were being grilled. The cooking meat was so near and the smell so delicious the man held his piece of bread over the meat to capture some of the smell. As he started to eat the bread, the angry restaurant owner seized him and took him away to see a judge. The owner protested, "This man was stealing the smell of my meat without asking permission. I want you to make him pay me for it."

The judge thought for a moment, then held up his purse in front of the owner and shook it. "What are you doing that for?" asked the restaurant owner? The judge replied, "I am paying you. The sound of money is fair payment for the smell of food."

The challenge when we are dealing with the least and the last is to make sure that what we are sharing with them is real. We must make sure that our

care is expressed in ways that are tangible and begins to change lives. (by Wiley Stephens from [*Heaven's Audit of One's Soul*](#))

Jesus Wins:

George III of England, America's enemy in the Revolutionary War, felt terrible about the loss of the colonies. It was said, in fact, that for the rest of his life, he could not say the word "independence" without tripping over it. He was an odd duck in many ways, but he had good insights. When the fighting in America stopped, King George and all his royal cronies in Europe were sure that George Washington would have himself crowned "Emperor of the New World." That's what they would have done. When he was told, on the contrary, that Washington planned to surrender his military commission and return to farming at Mt. Vernon, George III said, "Well, if he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

There is power in giving up power, in emptying oneself. Jesus knew it, Pilate didn't. Jesus wins, Pilate loses. (William R. Boyer, *A Confusion of the Heart*, quoted by Fr. Tony Kaila). (Fr. Tony) <http://frtonyshomilies.com/>

Won't you come down, King?

A king once fell in love with a poor girl. At first, he thought of simply bringing her to the palace and marrying her, but he realized this wouldn't work since she would soon realize the immense difference in their backgrounds and not be happy. After much reflection, he decided to renounce his kingdom and go and live near her, so that she'd realize how deeply he loved her. Shocking one and all, he left the palace.

This story -adapted from philosopher Kierkegaard's original -somehow reveals to us the great love of our king Jesus Christ, who 'comes down' that we might be raised up. (Francis Gonsalves in *Sunday Seeds for Daily Deeds*; quoted by Fr. Botelho).