

FAITH AND REASON

The Pain of being Human... The Pain of being Christian: St John Fisher's journey to and from Westminster on June 17th for his trial had been made partly by land. As he passed many knelt for his blessing and showed their sympathy. St Thomas More was, therefore, was taken by the river Thames on July 1st so that such demonstrations could not be repeated. Had his judges any stirrings of compassion as they saw the prisoner slowly coming towards them up the hall, walking with the aid of a staff?

Those who had not seen him for many months, must have been shocked at his appearance; his feeble steps, his whitening hair and long beard and his drawn features were unlike the man who had been the King's companion, and the one they had counted it a privilege to know. After the reading of the indictment, which Thomas had now heard for the first time..... Audley, as Lord Chancellor, offered him the king's pardon "if you will revoke and reform your willful and obstinate opinion". The Duke of Norfolk, as the senior counsel present, confirmed the offer.... Thomas refused.

A chair was brought so that the accused could sit. Then Richard Rich, a great admirer of Sir Thomas, was called to testify, and in so doing perjured himself. For this Richard was given the Governorship of Wales. As Richard left the courtroom, Thomas beckoned to him and asked if he could look at the medallion hanging from his neck... Thomas then looked at Richard and said.... "The Lions of England"... "Why, Richard, it profits a man nothing to gain the whole world for his soul, but for Wales". Both men had to choose their destiny: Thomas gave up all to attain Christ: Richard disowned Christ...

The following verse is a poetic expression of the love that life requires. "When love beckons you follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. When his wings enfold you, yield to him, through the sword hidden among his opinions may wound you. And when he speaks to you believe in him, though his voice may shatter your dreams, as the north wind lays waste the garden. For even as love grows, so shall he crucify you. Even as he is in your growth so is he for your pruning. Even as he sends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.

Like sheaves of corn, he gathers you into himself. He threshes you to make you naked. He sifts you to free you from your husks. He grinds you to whiteness. He kneads you until you are pliant: then he assigns you to his sacred fire, that you may become sacred bread for God's sacred feast. All these things shall love. Do unto you that you may know the secrets of your heart. and in that knowledge become a fragment of life's heart"

The words of Cardinal Newman are, as if a commentary on this poetic verse: "The thought of God and nothing short of it is the happiness of man; for though there is much besides to serve as subject of knowledge, or motive, or action, or means of excitement yet the affections require something more vast ,more enduring than anything created. He alone is sufficient for the heart who made it, The contemplation of him, and nothing but it, is able to fully open and relieve the mind, to unlock, occupy, and fix our affections. We may indeed love created things with great intenseness, but such affection when disjoined from the love of the Creator, is like a stream running in a narrow channel, impetuous, vehement, turbid. The heart runs out, as it were, only at one door; it is not an expanding of the whole man. Created natures cannot open us or elicit the ten thousand mental senses that belong to us, and through which we really live. None but the presence of our maker can enter us, for to none besides can the whole heart in all its thoughts and feelings be unlocked and subjected.

This is what it means to be "Catholic": It is not simply a matter of "knowing our faith" living a sacramental life through the Mass and the sacraments. Rather, it is through living our faith in this way that we must have the mind of Christ, walk with Christ through this world and thereby develop that truly Catholic mentality...all-embracing... universal state of mind and heart. And for this we must walk with Christ in loving trust.... **A meditation by Fr. William C. Mooney**

I love you!! Willingly you saved me... You sacrificed yourself for my sins, you believe in me, and you always forgive.

Willingly you saved me... Looking at the cross with blood flooding your face I knew I had a passion for you.

You have followers... They love you, trust you and stand-up for you.

You have followers... Every night I pray to you and tell you about my dreams & wishes. Hoping at the right time they will be answered.

I thank you... You hold people up. give them hope and pray for them.

I thank you... Someday I hope to pay you back maybe through your words or through your love. Jesus, I love you... **Amber Hilsman**

The Idea of Sin: It is not enough to say that one must be set free from sin...

It is possible to be possessed by the idea of sin....

It is not only real sin which enslaves people,

but also possession by the idea of sin which corrodes the whole life... **Nicolas Berdyaev**

Do not be afraid. Jesus encourages the disciples. He has just finished speaking to them about the loving and provident care of the Father, who cares for the lilies of the fields and the birds of the air, and therefore, all the more for his children. So, there is no need to worry and fret for our lives are firmly in God's hands. We are heartened by Jesus' invitation not to fear. Indeed, at times we feel imprisoned by a feeling of distrust and anxiety. It is the fear of failure, of not being acknowledged and loved, the fear of not being able to realize our plans, of never being happy, and so on. And so, we struggle to find solutions, to find a space in which to get out of the cycle, to accumulate goods and wealth, to obtain security. And where does this take us? We end up living anxiously and constantly worrying. Instead, Jesus reassures us: Do not be afraid! Trust in the Father who wants to give you all you truly need. He has already given you his Son, his Kingdom, and he will always accompany you with his providence, taking care of you every day. Do not be afraid -- this is the certainty that your hearts should be attached to...**Pope Francis**

Response: The scriptures tell us "I have called you by name. You belong to me. You are precious to me. I love you". God himself declares that we are precious to him. He loves us and wants us to respond to his love. The Cross will be for us as it was for Christ: proof of the greatest love.... **Mother Teresa**

A Thought For the Day

Sunday Lord, set my heart on fire with the brightness of Your love and mercy.
Monday The courage to speak must be matched by the wisdom to listen.
Tuesday The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Wednesday Laughter is the most civilized music in the universe.
Thursday You do not need to wallow in guilt. Wallow in the mercy of God.
Friday Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.
Saturday How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Teacher: Great teachers give instructions to their disciples, has any teacher made his death the pattern of theirs? This is possible, no earthly teacher could foresee the manner of his death nor was death *ever* the reason why he came to teach. Socrates never told the young philosophers of Athens to drink hemlock juice, because he would die by it. Jesus did make his Cross the basis of his first instructions to his Apostles. It is because this fact is so often missed, and for the moment was missed by the Apostles that the true vision of Christ is beclouded. Even when he acted as a teacher, he made the Cross to cast its shadow over his Apostles. The sufferings they would endure would be identical to what He would endure. He had been called the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed for the sins of the world. **Bishop Fulton Sheen**

The Heart of God: The Old Testament speaks of God's heart twenty-six times. It is regarded as the organ of his will, against which man is measured. It is the Logos which is at the center of us all - without our knowing - for the center of man is the heart, and in the heart there is the guiding energy of the whole, which is the Logos. It is the Logos which enables us to be logical, to correspond to the Logos; he is the image of God after which we were created... It is here, in the heart, that the birth of the divine logos in man takes place, that man is united with the personal, incarnate Word of God... The heart is the place of the saving encounter with the Logos. The pierced heart of Jesus is not concerned with self-preservation with self-surrender. It saves the world by opening itself.... The heart saves, indeed, but it saves by giving itself away. Thus, in the heart of Jesus, the center of Christianity is set before us. It expresses everything, all that is genuinely new and revolutionary in the New Covenant. The heart calls to our heart. It invites us to step forth out of the futile attempt of self-preservation and, by journey in the test of love, handing ourselves over to him, and with him to discover the fullness of love which alone is eternity, and which alone sustains the world. **Pope Benedict XVI**

In His Will is Our Peace
Fr. William C. Mooney

Spiritual Direction and Confession
Email: Fr.WCmooney@gmail.com
Appointments: (904) 824-6625
Follow on Facebook: [Faith and Reason](#)
Instagram: [faith_and_reason](#)