

FAITH AND REASON

Christ My King: Caesar entered the City of Rome in his chariot drawn by six tawny lions. Pompey chose elephants to pull his chariot. Other Roman Emperors entered Rome in Golden chariots drawn by 6 or 8 magnificent stallions. Kaiser Wilhelm II asked to have the streets of Jerusalem widen so that he could enter Jerusalem in a golden carriage. The most the authorities could do was widen the Jaffe Gate so he could enter on horseback for the dedication of the Lutheran Church. Adolf Hitler intended to march triumphantly through the streets of Paris after the fall of the city. His General staff pleaded with him not to do so. And for the first time in his life he took their advice. Arches, columns, memorials, have long since heralded the entry of great conquerors, Kings.

Jesus Christ - God incarnate, entered Jerusalem on a donkey, as the prophets had foretold. Jesus entry into the city was the occasion of some fanfare but, unlike earthly rulers it was devoid of all ostentation.

The human response to the humility of Jesus could hardly be sharper. The painting of Sigismund Getz which hung in the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1904 entitled, despised and rejected of Men, is a compelling reminder of man's response to God's love.

The artist depicts Jesus on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral in London. One man almost brushes against Jesus as he passes, reading the sports page. A scientist is too busy with his test tube to notice Jesus. A church dignitary self-satisfied, with an air of piety, passes by oblivious of Jesus. A non-conformist is so engaged in theological argument, he does not see Jesus. A mob orator harangues the crowd on the rights of man. but fails to notice the brother of men. A nurse notices Jesus, but she too passes on.

The artist is reminding us that people so often become involved in many things - good and otherwise, that they overlook what is most important. The Kingdom is the central passage and proclamation of Jesus' teaching. The word kingdom is used more than a hundred times in the Gospel. Jesus tells us to pray that the kingdom may be established; and so we pray: Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. As soon as we understand the kingdom, as doing God's will, the kingdom becomes very real, very personal. The kingdom of God begins, not with the nations, but with each of us. The person who prayed "Lord, revive your Church", beginning with me, understood this clearly.

In other words, if we wish to set up the kingdom of God in this world, we must set it up first of all in our own hearts. (c/f St Patrick before setting out to convert the pagan Irish). The kingdom will not be forced on anyone, it must come! It is God's personal invitation to each one of us, to seek and accept his will.

Origen (Origenes Adamantius) c.185-c.254 one of the most influential theologians of the early Church said, "What is evident in Sacred Scripture is that the Kingdom is doing God's will. He went on to say, "Our lives should be like a garden in which Jesus can walk" St Augustine said "Virtue is not knowledge; rather it is a love causes by a delight that is given by God. We become believers by coming to delight in what we believe. We become doers of good by coming to delight in doing good"

A Play opened in the City of Moscow; a blasphemous play entitled "Jesus Christ in Tuxedo" The first act opened with a scene featuring an altar arranged like a bar. The second act featured Comrad Alexander Rostevzev, a famous Russian actor, and ardent follower of Karl Marx. The audience roared as he came on stage impersonating Jesus. Soon after his appearance, he was to read 2 verses of the Sermon on the Mount, then throw off his Palestinian gown and shout "Give me my tuxedo and my top hat"

As directed by the text Comrad Rostevzev began to proclaim: "Bless are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Then, instead of following his cues, he paused, as though paralyzed. A nervous, uneasy hush spread through the audience. Then Comrad Rostevzev continued.... "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied". He then finished the remaining 41 verses of St Mathew's Gospel. And then.... before that great, stunned audience, Comrad Rostevzev made the ancient sign of the Cross and cried out, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Conrad Rostevzev sacrificed everything; his outstanding career as one of the greatest actors in Russia, his income, his privileged position in Russian society - as one of their gods. Suddenly, he was an outcast, oppression, persecution would walk with him for the rest of his days... Given the circumstances of time and place, that sacrifice was nothing less than heroic. What sacrifices are we willing to make that the Lord God may truly be our King, My King?... **A**

meditation by Fr. William C. Mooney

Is It I Lord? I heard my name called softly, And I ran to my front door, I also looked in every room, This mystery to explore.

The next time I was taken to task, For a message did ensue, With bated breath I did ask, "Is it you, Lord, is it you?"

I had to question with reservation, For on the truth I must rely, So I inquired without hesitation, "Is it I, Lord, is it I?"

"What is it, what can I do, What do you want with me?" "If you listen, I will tell you," He said so quietly.

So I caught my breath, He was so kind, His instrument I wished to be, "Use me, Lord," came to mind, Your will let me foresee.

"Tell all who will listen who I am, Why I hung upon the tree, I am the Good News their hearts yearn for, Their salvation is through me." ... **Phyllis Seeley Burroughs**

On giving our lives to God without holding anything back: "If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? ... No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord... 1 Cor 1:3-9

A Thought For the Day

Sunday	We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God.
Monday	Evil draws its power from indecision and concern for what other people think.
Tuesday	Through Mary, and the other holy women, the feminine element stands at the heart of the Christian religion.
Wednesday	We should seek not so much to pray but to become prayer.
Thursday	There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials.
Friday	Let us realize that: the privilege to work is a gift, the power to work is a blessing, the love of work is success.
Saturday	The greatest and best talent that God gives to any man or woman in the world is the talent of prayer.

A Prayer to our blessed Lady for those who are growing old. Take my hand, oh Blessed Mother, hold me firmly lest I fall. I am nervous when I am walking, and to thee I humbly call. Guide me over every crossing. Watch me when I am on the stairs. Let me know you are beside me. Listen to my fervent prayer. Bring me to my destination, safely every day. Help me with each undertaking as the hours pass away. And when evening falls upon us, and I fear to be alone, take my hand, oh Blessed Mother, and once again lead me home.

Bored with Being Good: It is said that when wandering nomad tribes meet on the roads of Afghanistan, they greet each other with the words Staru Mashia. It is a fitting prayer for one who has been on the road for a long time. We are all pilgrim people on the road to a distant place that is our true home. But there is a deep- boned tiredness that may come with days and years travelling. Though heaven is a worthy destination, there is a chance that we may run out of steam. To conquer this "noon-day-devil" we must find a restful time to recover our energies and to pray for the strength from God to continue. Though we may be too tired to hear the words. I have no doubt that God looks down on us as we try to continue our journey and whispers, "May you not grow weary" **St Augustine**

Learning at the Feet of the Master: Teach me, my Lord, to be sweet and gentle in all the events of life; in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied. Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them. Teach me to profit from suffering that comes across my path. Let me use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me; that it may make me patient, not irritable that it makes me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty or overbearing. May no one be less good for having come within my influence.

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](#)