



Of Seeds and Flowers



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DIVE DEEP! FIND TRUTH! - (And maybe, Your TRUE SELF)

True story. A professor at a mid-west college, after teaching for twenty years, found himself disillusioned with life. He decided to travel to the East to find fresh meaning for his life. (I am always amazed why Westerners think you have to head East, India, Tibet, etc. , to find wisdom. I will bet he could have found his truth within 10 miles of his home.)

He met with one wise man; was unhappy and moved on. He met with another guru, was unhappy and moved on. After two more unfulfilling meetings he encountered another teacher. This man admonished him, "You are like the man who digs a well 3 feet deep and doesn't discover water and then moves on and digs another 3 foot well, and another, and another. STOP and DIG DEEP and you will find living water.

I have been praying fruitfully with the following Scripture for the past 7 days. I must shared it here: "If ANYONE thirsts, let him come to ME; let him drink who believes in ME, from *within him* rivers of LIVING WATERS will flow.' John 7: 37. This is true; even in the mid-west. -even for professors. Seekers of all kinds.

I love one line pieces of wisdom that back me into a corner and won't let me out until I let them do their FULL WORK. The following are some examples: Gentle reader, please, *Stop reading* when some idea "rings a bell". This is for *You*. Let it do its full work; gently feed your spirit like a spring rain.

For some reason it is JOY we hold lightly and victimhood we grab onto. Rohr.

Blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter. Anon.

The WILL of God will not take you where the GRACE of God will not protect you. God is **good** ALL the time.

I am GREAT beyond belief and I am a LITTLE DOT in the universe. What wonderful tension!

I travelled to the center of the universe and discovered I wasn't there.

I had a DNA test. God is my Father.

Do YOU have a Bible? Why is that?

"Love took possession of my heart, making me forget myself, and I have been happy ever since." St. Theresa of Lisieux

God's FIRST language is SILENCE. The biggest problem in prayer is praying as if God was absent. Teresa of Avila

Love is like bread. It has to be made fresh DAILY.

"Most people I know have just enough religion to make their lives miserable." Billy Sunday, Preacher.

When you go to sleep at night someone is thinking about YOU.

"What good is it if you give God *one thing* and He is looking for *another*? St. John of the Cross

O God, help me to believe the TRUTH about MYSELF no matter how BEAUTIFUL it is.

God wants YOU, NOW. The greatest safety is to *take the risk*. Everything else is *dangerous*. Continued, Pg. 4.



CHOSEN VESSEL

The Master was searching for a vessel to use;
Before him were many, which one would he choose?

"Take me", cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright.
I'm of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest.
And for someone like you. Master, gold would be the best."



The Master passed on with no word at all,
and looked at a silver urn narrow and tall.
"I'll serve you, dear Master, I'll pour out your wine.
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true, and silver
will always compliment you."

Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass.
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.
"Here! Here!" cried the vessel, "I know I will do,
place me on your table for all men to view."



"Look at me", called the goblet of crystal so clear,
"my transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile, am I, I will serve you with pride,
and I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
polished and carved, it solidly stood.
"You may use me, dear Master", the wooden bowl said,
"but I'd rather you used me for fruit, not for bread."



Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose
to cleanse, and make whole, to fill, and to use.

"Ah! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find,
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of itself,
nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf.
nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
nor one that displays his contents so proud.
Not the one that thinks he can do all things just right,
but this plain, earthly vessel, filled with power and might."



Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day;
Spoke to it kindly- "There's work you must do-
Just pour out to others, as I pour into you." B.V. Cornwall

"REFLECT, PRAY AND DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU." Jn: 2:5

VISION AND REALITY

Passive-Aggressive Sundays

Celebrating the Eucharist over the years, I have noticed that many people in the congregation are passive-aggressive. This is especially true at weddings, funerals, Christmas Midnight Mass and Easter when about one third or more of the congregation has not been in church for a long time. It becomes a great strain for the faithful, week after week, part of the congregation to lift up, and hold up in faith and love the other part of the community.

PASSIVE: "What are YOU going to do for ME this week?" "Make me feel good." "I want him/her to make me feel different by the time I leave here." "I don't know why I come week after week." "Nothing changes" "I'm bored stiff." "I hate singing and the prayers always seem the same." "Only for my wife and kids." "God, I'm uncomfortable." "Can't wait until this is over." "I always know what to expect and nothing more happens." Etc., etc...

AGGRRESIVE: "Too many hypocrites here." "He/she didn't visit my mother when she was in the hospital." "They are always talking about money." "That third grade nun." "Practice what you preach." "I always leave angry, unfulfilled, feeling empty and THEY (even the parking lot) are doing it to me." "I pray better in the woods, (although I never go.)Etc...

Sunday morning doesn't "work" if you haven't prayed during the week and don't come with EXPECTANT FAITH. Sunday morning **doesn't give faith, it presumes that you bring your faith**, a prayed and wide open heart to allow God a shot at touching you. "An audience will accept only what it is **prepared to believe in.**" -from the play 'Rosencrantz and Gildenstern'. A Sunday morning congregant will receive and accept *only what they are prepared to experience and believe.*

There is ALWAYS something said, read, prayed, sung, or in the environment itself or the faith-filled face of someone that WILL touch your heart if you are actively present. Negativity never gives birth to anything good.

I, who am so very, very little, am about to come in touch with the living God. O MY!!! -the God who has hung out a trillion galaxies. -feel your smallness, humbleness. The word "humble" comes from the Latin word "humus" which means earth, simple, humble earth. This is you; this is me. -poor and needy! Think about this the night before. -on your way to church. The incredible privilege. Ask the Lord to help you to prepare to come into His wonderful presence. How would you prepare or feel if your knew you were about to come into the presence of Pope Francis? -and who is he compared to your God? May I become a part of Him rather than He becoming a part of me. May I become inebriated by His Body and Blood. -totally transformed into the Greater. In nature, the lesser is always subsumed by and into the greater. We hold a treasure in our hands. So available and so often! Sing and dance. If this is true, it is true **for everyone, everywhere.**

I remember a Protestant friend once saying to me, "If I believed what you Catholics believe about the Eucharist I would come to the altar every day on my knees". The opposite of belief is often not denial but apathy. -taking the Diamond for granted, allowing familiarity to breed indifference.

I do know that some priests and ministers do a weak, and sometimes, a very weak job on Sunday and the above is not to excuse them or their lack of faith, preparation and prayer. However, I also know, by long experience, that so many people cheat themselves out of the riches that God intends for them, PERSONALLY, Sunday after Sunday. "ONE Communion, well prepared for and received could make you a saint." St Teresa of Avila to her nuns. How many times have you celebrated the Eucharist and received Communion? Maybe next Sunday is the day!!!!



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"There are no great things only small things done *with great love*." - Mother Theresa

Today, I think I will pay myself a visit. I do hope that I am at home." - Valentin

If you always DO what you've always DONE you'll always get what you always GOT.

"If you spend all of your time on the hillside tending the sheep, sooner or later, you will begin to ask yourself 'What do the sheep think of me'? And, little by little, without realizing it, you will begin to think and act like you believe the sheep want you to think and act." - Nietzsche

"I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it NOW, for I shall not pass this way again."

When was the last time you experienced yourself as the JOY of God?

If you were hauled into court for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

"Love and do what you will". Augustine TRANSFORMED PEOPLE, TRANSFORM PEOPLE.

"The most important thing to DO is to BE." - Lao Tzu 5th Cent. B.C

God made me and God doesn't make junk!

Happiness tomorrow depends on *doing* the TRUTH *today*.

Preach the Gospel with your whole life, *if necessary*, use words. St. Francis of Assisi

"Unless the Lord build the house they labor in vain who build it."

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