



Of Seeds and Flowers

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"GET USED TO DIFFERENT."

*I choose, I chose, I am CHOSEN! I was CHOSEN! **"CHOSEN"***

There is an absolutely brilliant series on Amazon Prime T. V. entitled "Chosen". The series shares carefully selected parts of Jesus' life, most faithful to the Scriptures, with dialogue, costuming, staging, acting, story line that is EXTREMELY well done. The series is well written, the stories believable, truly worth your time. You will be touched! So far, 150 million views! The 3rd season has been taped. A call was put out for 5000 people to tape "The Feeding of the 5000" and 12,000 people showed and they provided their own food, transportation and costume.



One scene depicts the call of the most hated tax collector, Matthew. After Matthew has his heart and curiosity aroused by watching Jesus in action, Jesus, about to leave the village, calls to Matthew, "Follow Me". Peter, VERY UPSET, at the call of Matthew, the most hated man in the village, tries to explain the serious mistake Jesus is making in calling Matthew. Peter says, "Matthew is, at best, different." Jesus, responds to his new, fresh disciple, Peter, by saying, **"GET USED TO DIFFERENT"**.

That line, "GET USED TO DIFFERENT" has been going over and over in my mind and heart for days. DIFFERENT-Christianity, the message of Jesus, is certainly DIFFERENT. Jesus' message is always challenging our unchallenged values, our preconceived ideas, our pre-programmed emotions. Christianity is so different and demanding that it has never really caught on. As Chesterton once wisely said: "It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting but that it has never truly been tried."

The following is at the mountain top of, "Get used to different."

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."



"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, (N.B. Not peace-lovers, they are a dime a dozen) for they shall be called sons of God."

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

And I suggest that, # 2 on the mountain top of, **“Get used to different”** is: “Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no end to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails. (1Cor.13) Where the word “love” appears insert your name!

How do YOU handle **different**? How does your FAITH, your CHRISTIANITY, handle **DIFFERENT**? DIFFERENT HOW? These days, in our society, one cannot discern the difference between Christians and non- Christians; Christians have adapted so respectfully, so quietly and nicely. -not like the early Christians!! -and we are losing our identity by the MINUTE!

When dealing with essential Christianity we are back in first grade, aren't we? (1943 for me, and Sister Josita and 62 other students, and ½ of the students were second graders. Yes, double classes and we learned because there was order, discipline) and the Baltimore Catechism. Question #1: **“Who made you?”** Ans. **“God made me.”** Question #2. **“Why did God make you?”** Ans: **“God made me to KNOW Him, to LOVE Him and to SERVE Him in this world and to be happy with him forever in heaven.”** Case Closed! The first week, in first grade. How we like to complicate matters!! “Do not



TOO LEARNED, TOO CLEVER! Are college degrees and Initials after your name an obstacle? “On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, for what you have hidden from the LEARNED and the CLEVER you have revealed to the merest children. Father it is true, you have graciously willed it so. Mt. 12: 25. Humility!! “Pride cometh before the fall.” The FALSE SELF always gets us into trouble!

“Be still and know that I am God” are words from Psalm 46 that are used so often these days. Verse 11, that follows (seldom used) is: “SUPREME among the nations, SUPREME in all the world.”

SUPREME among the 195 nations in the world. And among the 7000 languages spoken. SUPREME among the 13.8 billion universes. SUPREME among the 2 trillion galaxies. SUPREME among the 5000 solar systems. SUPREME on the earth that is 4.5 billion years old and life on earth that is 3.5 billion years old. SUPREME among Homo Sapiens who is 200,000 years old. Etc., Etc. “Right now, perhaps more than ever, we need a God as big as the expanding universe or educated people will continue to think of God as a mere add-on to a world that is already awesome, beautiful and worthy of praise. “Rohr, The Universal Christ.

Doesn't this information make you feel small, smaller, and dependent? The point is: God IS SUPREME and many, many people today are very uncomfortable with having a God that is supreme. They don't like being dependent in

believe those who SAY “Lord, Lord”... (Mt. 7:21) Jesus says that those who “do it right” not those who “say it right” matter.

Don't let all this be FIRE INSURANCE for you just in case it all turns out to be true. I was 85 years old on August 10th, and it all seems so very, very real to me. - maybe because I am closer to the end. It didn't seem as powerfully clear 40 or 50 years ago – I think God puts older people on the “fast track” and gives them another chance at working it all out, once you reach age 80. What if you can put yourself, right now, whatever your age, on the spiritual/faith fast-track and not have to wait until you are 80 years old?

FEAR, FEAR is what keeps most people from choosing to follow God or Jesus. Fear of what others might think, fear of what they think God will ask of them, fear of what they might have to give up. God doesn't act this way! He won't EVER ask you to do something you can't do or prepare you to do. “Perfect love casts out all fear.” St. John

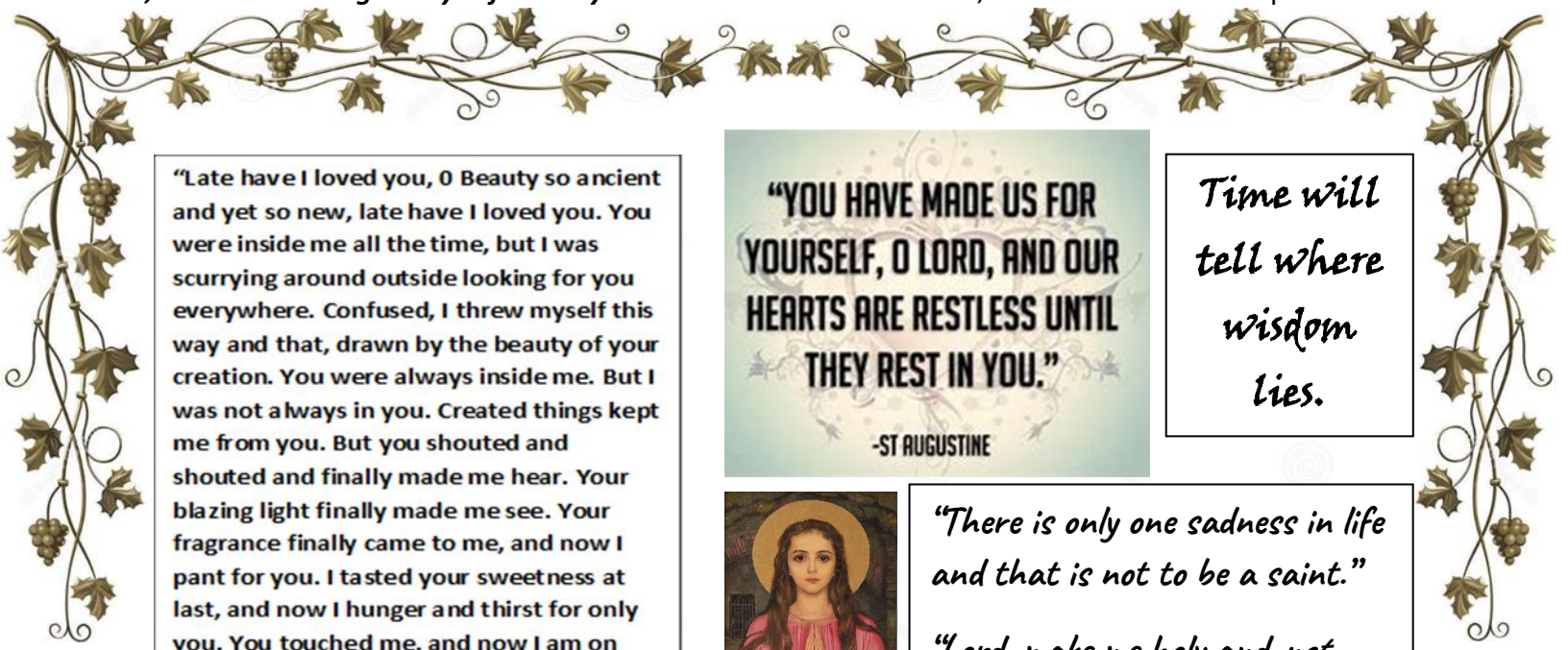
MOST PEOPLE GO TO THEIR GRAVE WITH THEIR MUSIC INSIDE THEM

Oliver Wendell Holmes



any way. -like for their next breath. Dependence is not popular “among the nations, or “in the world”. -and even in many churches. “All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord.”

If God is supreme among the nations, among the world, among all people that changes our place, our thinking, our reality, our very being and reason for existence, doesn't it? However, if it is true that there is a God and He/She is SUPREME (you only get a fifty-fifty chance at this) then we owe this God respect, honor, praise, worship etc. -for our very existence, indeed OUR NEXT BREATH. To know the truth about this, and to act in the proper manner is FREEDOM, PEACE, RIGHT ORDER, WHOLENESS. To NOT know the truth about God's presence in your life is to be in perpetual flux, doubt, quandary about your present and future, life. **“Get Used to Different.” “Once I knew God existed, I knew I had to give myself entirely to him.”** Charles DeFoucauld, Canonized a saint this past June.



“Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and yet so new, late have I loved you. You were inside me all the time, but I was scurrying around outside looking for you everywhere. Confused, I threw myself this way and that, drawn by the beauty of your creation. You were always inside me. But I was not always in you. Created things kept me from you. But you shouted and shouted and finally made me hear. Your blazing light finally made me see. Your fragrance finally came to me, and now I pant for you. I tasted your sweetness at last, and now I hunger and thirst for only you. You touched me, and now I am on fire. And so shall I be for the rest of my life.” The Confessions, St. Augustine

“YOU HAVE MADE US FOR YOURSELF, O LORD, AND OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU.”

-ST AUGUSTINE

Time will tell where wisdom lies.



“There is only one sadness in life and that is not to be a saint.”

“Lord. make me holy and not know it.”

“Once, earlier in my life, I knew all about the PERSON OF JESUS, like any good theologian or Scripture scholar, but I did not know JESUS IN PERSON.”

Fr. Ramiero Cantalamessa, preacher to the Papal Household. IMAGINE, Roman preacher!!

“WE should construct our lives to be so near the bottom that when the system collapses, we won't have far to fall.”

Dorothy Day The “system” is NOW failing. However, God's wisdom is: Things aren't falling apart, they are falling into place.



The recent issue of Atlantic Monthly has an article titled. “How the Rosary has become and Extremist Symbol for Christian Nationalism.” “Christian Nationalism” since the overturn of Roe V. Wade is the new pagan cry.



“Atheism is the solution to Christian Nationalism”, MSNBC. “Christian Nationalism” are the new angry media “buzz words” to describe the 50- year struggle to reverse and the victory over Roe V. Wade. If you listen closely, you can hear God giggle, followed by a big clap of thunder.

Last month we had 800 people return to our podcast. As a teacher, I understand this as 32 classes with 25 students in a class. -a full load for 6+ teachers.

THE AUCTION

An upstate New York man was rich in almost every way. His estate was worth millions. He owned houses, land, antiques and cattle. On the outside he had it all but on the inside he was very unhappy. His wife was growing old and the couple was childless. He had always wanted a little boy to carry on the family legacy. Miraculously his wife became pregnant in her later years, and she gave birth to a little boy. The boy was severely handicapped, but the man loved him with his whole heart. When the boy was five his mom died. His father was devastated but it caused him to draw closer to his special son. At age 13 the boy's birth defects cost him his life and the father died soon after from a broken heart.

The estate was auctioned before hundreds of bidders. The first item offered was a painting of the boy. No one bid. The attendees waited like vultures for the riches. Finally, the poor housemaid who helped raise the boy offered \$5.00 for the painting and easily took the bid. To everyone's surprise the auctioneer ripped a handwritten note from the back of the picture. This is what it said: *"To the person who thinks enough of my son to buy this painting, to this person I give my entire estate."* The auction was over. The selfish crowd walked away in shock and dismay.



Remember the gospel story, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant's search for fine pearls. When he found one really valuable pearl, he went back and put up for sale ALL THAT HE HAD and bought it." MT. 13,45-46 Your pearl, your pearl; what is your PEARL? What or who would motivate you to sell all you have to possess THE TREASURE? Maybe the CORRECT question is: How do you spend your time?

Differently put: If you had only one year to live and I could promise you complete success in just one thing in your life, what would you choose? T.S. Eliot said, "A saint is a person who wills ONE THING."



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