

Of Seeds and Flowers

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IF YOU ARE NOT SCHOCKED...

by the message of Jesus and His gospel you are not listening, or you don't understand His message. Jesus' message is radical (from the Latin radix meaning **ROOT**). His message is revolutionary. The Ten commandments are a 'piece of cake' compared to the full message of Jesus. -like the Beatitudes!

Recently, I have been reading, meditating, and praying on chapters 5 and 6 in Matthew's gospel and some "tough stuff". Please, don't back off. It won't hurt!

Be on guard against performing religious acts for people to see. Otherwise expect no recompense from your heavenly Father. **Mt. 6:1.**

When you are praying, do not behave like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in synagogues or on street corners in order to be noticed. **Mt :5.5.**

You can tell a tree by its fruit. **Mt 7: 26.**

Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. ... Remember where your treasure is, there your heart is also. **Mt. 5: 19-21.**

If you want to avoid judgment, stop passing judgment. Your verdict on others will be the verdict passed on you. **Mt. 7: 1.**

When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see they are fasting. **Mt. 5:16.**

Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the foolish man who built his house on sandy ground. **Mt. 7:26**

Treat others the way you would have them treat you: this sums up the law and the prophets. **MT. 7:12.**

"God's wisdom is vindicated by all who accept it." **Luke 7:35.**



These words are strong, almost brutal, by contemporary standards; but they make very clear that there is a necessary suffering that **CANNOT BE AVOIDED** which Jesus calls "losing our very life" or what we have called many times **THE FALSE SELF**. Your false self is your role, title, and personal image that is largely a creation of your own mind, possessions, and attachments. It will and must die depending on how much you want your **REAL SELF** to be born and stop pretending you are **SOMEONE YOU ARE NOT**. How much of the false self are you willing to shed to find your True Self? -is the **LASTING QUESTION**. Such necessary suffering will always feel like dying which is what good spiritual teachers will counsel you, if they are honest (Alcoholics Anonymous is very successful here).

And then, there are the Beatitudes. Then Jesus took His disciples up the mountain and taught them saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are they that mourn; they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek/merciful; they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that thirst for holiness/justice/righteousness; they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the pure of heart; for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called sons and daughters of God. Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven."

Then Simon Peter said, *"Do we have to write this down?"*

And Andrew said, *"Are we supposed to know this?"*

And Philip said, *"Will we have a test on it?"*

And Bartholomew said, *"Do we have to turn this in?"*

And John said, *"The other disciples didn't have to learn this."*

And Matthew said, *"When do we get out of here?"*

And Judas said, *"What does this have to do with real life?"*

And the other disciples as well... Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus's lesson plan, his class objectives, evidence of higher order thinking skills, as well as his modelling and class closure. And asked, *"Will this be OK with WOKE and CANCEL Culture, and the sexual and gender wars, the media and racial groups?"*

AND JESUS WEPT!!!! - AND WEPT AND THREW UP HIS HANDS AND WEPT! -to the mountains to handle His heart and to pray to His Father!

The teachings of Jesus were designed to move people to question their **UNQUESTIONED VALUES**, so they can open to the **RADICAL PROGRAM FOR CHANGE** that He offers. We do not normally enjoy change; even change for the **BETTER** is threatening. It is easier to stick with the value system that we have absorbed from our parents, education, ethnic group, nation, and religious education. Jesus' teaching challenges the values of **EVERY AGE**. *"If Christianity has failed it is not because it has been tried and found wanting but because it has never truly been tried."* Chesterton. **If you were hauled into court for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?**

These words, this message, these Christian teachings can't be lived by human power but **ONLY by SPIRIT POWER, ONLY by GOD'S GRACE!** Too many, actually **MOST** people, try to live the Christian life by **WILL POWER** alone. It can't be done!

WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT: God seems far away. Christ stays in the past. The Gospel, the Bible is a dead letter. Prayer is a drudge. The church is simply another organization. Authority is a matter of domination and power. Mission is propaganda. The Christian life is a slave morality. The Liturgy, going to church, and the Mass is boring.

WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: Comes an awareness of God in **YOUR Heart: YOU** are His temple since your

Baptism. The Gospel, the Bible comes alive. It **SINGS IN YOUR HEART!** Authority is liberating service. The risen Christ is here. Mission is Pentecost. Think "Mother Teresa". Christ is in everyone! You are aware of being saved, redeemed. The Mass, Sunday becomes alive! Prayer becomes more enjoyable! You will be aware of a deeper, closer relationship with Jesus. You will be more aware of the gifts and fruits of the Holy spirit. Your spiritual life will have fresh life and breath!!! You will be alive!!

*"It is to your **ADVANTAGE** that I go. If I fail to go the Holy Spirit will never come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you."* Jn. 16: 7.

"The Holy Spirit always **MOVES US**, makes us walk and pushes the Church forward." However, Pope Francis said, we often respond by saying, "DON'T BOTHER US." **"We want to put the HOLY SPIRIT ASLEEP; we want to TAME the Holy Spirit, and it doesn't work because He/She is God. -the "Wind that comes and goes we know not from where." But the idea of "going forward" is what often bothers us, because we want to "remain comfortable." "Do not resist the Holy Spirit," Francis urged, "It is the Spirit that make us free, with that freedom of Jesus, that freedom of the children of god!"**

Come Lord Jesus

Jesus, I don't like the way I am.
I've tried to live independently of you.
I've tried to run my own life and I just haven't succeeded.
I'm not at all the kind of person I would really like to be.
I've left you out of my life. I'm sorry that I have hurt so
Many people and failed so many others - including myself. I don't want to be that way any more
I ask you to forgive me and heal me,
I need you and I want to share my life with you.
Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and my Savior.
Come into my heart and share your life with me.
I want you to be the most important person in my life.

COME HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus, I know now that I am yours and you are mine forever.
I thank you for sending your Spirit to me that I might have the power to live this new life with you.
Stir up your Spirit in me.
Release your Spirit in me.
Baptize me with the fullness of your Spirit.
That I may experience your presence and power in my life.
That I may find new meaning in your scriptures.
That I may find new meaning in the Sacraments;
That I may find delight and comfort in prayer.
That I may be able to love as you love and forgive as you forgive.
That I may discover and use the gifts you give me for the life of your people;
That I may experience the peace and the joy that you have promised us.
Fill me with your Spirit, Jesus. I wish to receive all that you have to give me. Amen.

VISION AND REALITY: SIGNS AND WONDERS - Signs I have seen recently promoting current social change:

"LOVE CONQUERS ALL" - A sign erected by the Tolland, CT Democrats. Love does conquer all, when "ALL" includes the truth. Love is not a white coat of paint, or a cheap veneer used willy-nilly to cover non truth. "I am the WAY, the **TRUTH**, and the LIFE." said Jesus. ALL THREE!!!

"LOVE IS THE WAY" - Love truly is the way when the WAY includes Gospel truth. I can't figure out what translation of the Bible is being used here!!!! The Bible should never be used as a club, or tool of warfare! You can prove almost anything from the Bible when one "CHERRY PICKS" verses. "**I** am the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the LIFE." said Jesus. Truth should not be open for debate as opinion is open for debate! Let's separate the two?

"JESUS NEVER REJECTED ANYONE" - Sign at the Church at the Univ. of Connecticut: True, BUT, BUT He called the pharisees hypocrites 8 times and "brood of vipers" as well. -and told the adulteress in John 8: 11., who He **NEVER** rejected, "**Nor do I condemn you, "Go and sin no more"** Everyone is welcome but not everything goes. Jesus never rejected ANYONE, but He ALWAYS rejected their bad/sinful actions. Love the sinner; hate the sin. Chant by marchers at the recent "Drag Parade in N.Y.C. "***We are here; we are queer, we are coming for your children.***" Love sure didn't conquer this! This will ruin all the understanding the Gay Community has gained.

The poor children and young adults in this generation! They are being pushed, shoved, indoctrinated, confused, by weak adults who should know better! Remember the MILLSTONE! "*It would be better for anyone who leads astray one of these little ones who believe in me, to be drowned by a MILLSTONE around his neck, in the depths of the sea.*" Mt. 18:6. **The millstones are piling up!!** There is no right way to do the wrong thing. Kids listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.

The speaker at the closing conference of the German Protestant Church Conference in Nuremberg two weeks ago declared, quote: "**God is queer.**" Is this about power and control? Popularity? Acceptance? Does God have to agree with us rather than we having to agree with God? Such courage!!! -or is it boldness? "*They preferred the praise of men to the glory of God.*" John 12: 43. "*Man is a creature who wants to be God.*" Jean-Paul Sartre
Bad theology, bad religion, bad philosophy, bad sociology, bad politics, bad science, bad education, bad logic, bad



media, are NOT VICTIMLESS CRIMES. They HURT REAL PEOPLE! -YOU AND ME!! CHILDREN, THE POOR, WEAK!

The present climate in our American culture reminded me of the following story. A rabbi was asked to rule on a case. The first man presented his argument, and the rabbi, after hearing his evidence, said to him, "*You are right.*" Then the second man presented his argument and the rabbi, after hearing his evidence, said "*You are right.*" At this point, the rabbi's wife turned to her husband and asked, "*How can both of these men be right?*" The rabbi thought for a moment and then said, "*Darling, you are right!*" America today: No evidence no truth needed: EVERYBODY IS RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING! -AND PLEASE, DON'T OBJECT to anyone or anything that is said or done, or be ready to be called a "hater/racist/homophobic" of some sort. Come to think of it! That is what happened to Jesus!



A SUGGESTION: Every gender concerned person in the world should kneel and pray: "God made ME, and God doesn't make junk."- over and over- and then become a contemplative pray-er whose union with God spreads goodness over our world and throughout the universe! And not CO-OPT God and make GOD someone God is not, so as not to be comfortable in your own skin. Get off the social change treadmill. Stop the "blame game" and accept yourself, God, and others as they truly are. This is redemptive, salvific, and REAL power to make loving change happen. Just ask Martin Luther King! **A day without sunshine is like, you know, NIGHT!**

Temptation is a part of EVERYBODY'S LIFE. Love and acceptance does not mean "anything goes morally FOR ANY OF US!!! "NO" "BEGONE", are the words to fight temptation for EVERYBODY, including the gender etc.etc. challenged.



P.S. Some good, uplifting, thoughtful, words on our podcasts. - even though some podcasts are now being censored by YouTube. As Ex President Obama said recently, "*Free speech is ruining this country.*" Please continue to support Mary's Field so we can continue to say the things that upset YouTube.

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light...proclaim on the housetops." Mt.10.

"I did as I was told." Ezekiel 12:7.

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