

If They Only Would Listen to Me

In Our first reading we are told Solomon finds favor with the Lord not because he asks to be proved right or to have earthly riches but instead he asked that he could be given heavenly understanding so that he could serve the people with a sense of what is truly right or wrong and to have a heart that is just so he could govern the unruly people. What a great display of trust and surrender to our God. A mindset that acknowledges that truth is not based on how many people are on our side but rather based on both sides willing to surrender to Grace and conversion of the heart.

I have been re-reading a book I bought a while ago titled, “The Benedict Option” I find it interesting because it tackles a very tricky topic. How do we as Christians live in this world but not be of this world. In one part of the book the author speaks about C.S. Lewis a Professor of English Literature at Oxford wrote

many books on the Christian Life and many may know him from his “Chronicles of Narnia “series. But he is an interesting person in that he was aided in his conversion to Christianity by JR Tolkien a Catholic. Lewis agreed with a lot of the teachings of the Church but could not allow himself to come into full communion to the Catholic Church. When asked why he said “if you were born in Ulster as I was you would not ask that question.”. As much as he converted his life to Jesus and the teachings of the Church, he still could not completely break from his Ulster Protestant background. Isn’t that true of us all in one form or another each of us are on a continual road of conversion to Christ, there is always something that we battle to be free of . But one other thing about Lewis that is interesting is he was a professional student of the Medieval days. The “Benedict Option” quotes Lewis as he explains , that the medieval conception of reality helped people find meaning amid the chaos. It was an idea that pre-dated Christianity because as Plato believed;

“Two things could relate to each other only through a third thing.”

It is only when we come to the point of Solomon where we realize we don't have all the answers That the world is at odds with their relationship to God and it is only conversion of our hearts that will make us true examples to the world. It is only through God that we can reconcile our differences.

It is not hard to see that as the world discards God they replace Him with other idols the idols of ideology, or political thought And then that is not enough but are idols have to be right or left on every point. According to our world view.

But we as Christians are called to break from that we are to seek the pearls. We are to be on the road to conversion to the heart and mind of Christ. We are called to be saints in these days, we need to be able to say to the clamoring crowds of the left and the right, to those who seek confrontation over true dialogue and say, “I have nothing for you except Jesus. I won't

march with you but I will fall to my knees and pray with you. I will say the Rosary with you.”

A beautiful quote that is attributed to Socrates goes:

“Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows what is best for us.” Solomon knew that. Maybe so should we.