

Lenten Reflections

Holy Week

The Divine Intervention



March 26, 2016

Scripture

Romans 6: 3-11

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Our Scripture Reflection

Dying to your "old self". Can you imagine that? Can you imagine living a life free of anger, envy, jealousy, hatred, sadness, fear, lust, and on and on? Paul says that the power for this "new person" comes when we surrender to and are united with Christ. Are you ready for it?

Food for your Journey

A person asked Socrates why it was that Alcibiades, who was so rich, so brilliant and so able a statesman and general, who had traveled so much, and seen so much of the world, was nevertheless so unhappy a man.

Socrates replied: "Because wherever he goes Alcibiades takes himself with him."

Here we find that Socrates gave a wise answer to an often-asked question: "How come such and such a person who seemingly has everything and yet is unhappy?" What is the root problem?

Socrates saw that the root problem is in the person himself. Socrates knew that his student Alcibiades had the problems of pride, vanity and selfish ambition. Wherever he went, he created controversy, trouble and division. And that was the cause of his unhappiness.

Jesus Christ is much wiser than Socrates. He knew the root problem of the human race. He knew the root problem of every person, every Christian and every family. The root problem is the old "self."

—Gershom Lee, "The path to the abundant life — denying self and bearing the cross to follow Jesus," www.d-ccc.org.

Prayer from the Heart

Precious and Risen Lord, give me the Grace to die to my old self so that this Easter I may rise as a new person totally dedicated to You. Amen.



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