July 18, 2019

Scripture

Matthew, 11: 27-30
Jesus said:
"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Our Scripture Reflection

The people whom Jesus encountered and who are “burdened” are people who wanted what we all (hopefully) want: To find meaning in this life and to one day enjoy the blessings of the life that will never end. The religious leaders and teachers of the day had really let them down. They extracted from the Scriptures 613 individual commandments on which they built a whole body of oral commandments. They taught that in order to make it to Heaven, one had to obey them all, completely. The problem?

1. So many people were illiterate and could not read the Laws.
2. Each rabbi had his own spin on the Law.
3. To become a disciple of a rabbi, one had to know someone who knew someone.....Yes, lots of politics was involved.

And then along came Jesus who offered those who were humble and lowly His “Yoke” (the word used by the lawyers and teachers for the Law). Jesus did not come to eliminate the Law, but rather, to teach what was most important about it and how to put it into practice in one’s day to day living.

Food for your Journey

Tradition, G.K. Chesterton once said, is the "democracy of the dead," by which he meant to remind the living that while we may be the church Visible and Militant, we are also the church on earth, and in the minority. It is easy to forget that fact as we go about our business being the Church Busy; indeed, the present-centeredness of the church may be its most consistent heresy.


We would do well to remember the Christian character and virtues of generations long gone. Gomes goes on to say, "It is reassuring to know that those saints who went before us were aided by the very God whom they loved and served, and that this great cloud of witnesses is rooting for us now."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, I pray this day for the Grace of humility so that I may be open to the way of Jesus and for the wisdom to make His way a part of my life, daily. Amen