August 18, 2019

Scripture

Luke 12: 49-53
Jesus said to his disciples:
"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!
There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,
and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!
Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division.
From now on a household of five will be divided,
three against two and two against three;
a father will be divided against his son
and a son against his father,
a mother against her daughter
and a daughter against her mother,
a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Our Scripture Reflection
Jesus was and continues to be the Great Disruptor. If one is truly humble and committed to following His way faithfully and completely.....look out! What did He mean by coming to cause division? The practice of religion had become stagnant, lazy and nothing more than jumping through the hoops, a following of the status quo. Jesus came to shake things up. He wanted people to live what they profess to believe to the fullest and that often entails deep-seated change. Such change requires truth, courage and trust.

Food for your Journey
In his book Your God Is Too Small, J.B. Phillips, rips into the "meek and mild" vocabulary sometimes used about Jesus: "Why 'mild'? Of all the epithets that could be applied to Christ this
seems one of the least appropriate. For what does 'mild,' as applied to a person, conjure up to our minds? Surely a picture of someone who wouldn't say 'boo' to the proverbial goose; someone who would let sleeping dogs lie and avoid trouble wherever possible; someone of a placid temperament who is almost a stranger to the passions of red-blooded humanity; someone who is a bit of a nonentity, both uninspired and uninspiring.

"This word 'mild' is apparently deliberately used to describe a man who did not hesitate to challenge and expose the hypocrisies of the religious people of his day: a man who had such 'personality' that he walked unscathed through a murderous crowd; a man so far from being a nonentity that he was regarded by the authorities as a public danger; a man who could be moved to violent anger by shameless exploitation or by smug complacent orthodoxy; a man of such courage that he deliberately walked to what he knew would mean death, despite the earnest pleas of well-meaning friends! Mild! What a word to use for a personality whose challenge and strange attractiveness nineteen centuries have by no means exhausted. Jesus Christ might well be called 'meek,' in the sense of being selfless and humble and utterly devoted to what he considered right, whatever the personal cost; but 'mild,' never!"


**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, I love You and want to follow faithfully the way of Your Son Jesus. Make me humble and open. Give me the courage I need to grow beyond denial and to dig deeply. May I be willing to make serious changes when they are necessary. Amen