October 17, 2019

Scripture

Luke 11:47-54
The Lord said:
"Woe to you who build the memorials of the prophets whom your fathers killed.
Consequently, you bear witness and give consent to the deeds of your ancestors, for they killed them and you do the building. Therefore, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and Apostles; some of them they will kill and persecute' in order that this generation might be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the temple building. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be charged with their blood! Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter."
When Jesus left, the scribes and Pharisees began to act with hostility toward him and to interrogate him about many things, for they were plotting to catch him at something he might say.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus issues a scathing indictment against the religious leaders of His day: "Woe to you who build the memorials of the prophets
whom your fathers killed.” The Temple priests and prophets were on the king’s payroll, therefore, they said only what the King wanted to hear. Even when the Kingdom was morally crumbling they refused to call the King to task. When God sent His prophets to speak the hard, cold truth, the King and his cohorts refused to listen and God’s prophets were ridiculed, rejected and some abused and killed. Jesus is calling out the religious leaders, the Pharisees and their scribes, who like their ancestors failed to call people to task for their sinful behavior. Needless to say, Jesus made no friends among them as He did. His words would cost Him His life. The Truth is hard to hear at times, isn’t it?

**Food for your Journey**

I realize that when I use the word God, there’s a good chance I’m stepping on all kinds of land mines. Is there a more volatile word loaded down with more history, assumptions and expectations than that tired, old, relevant, electrically charged, provocative, fresh, antiquated yet ubiquitous as ever, familiar/unfamiliar word God?

And that’s why I use it.

From people risking their lives to serve the poor because they believe God called them to do it, to pastors claiming that the latest tornado or hurricane or earthquake is God’s judgment, to professors proclaiming that God has only ever been a figment of our imagination, to people in a recovery meeting sitting in a circle drinking bad coffee and talking about surrendering to a higher power, to musicians in their acceptance speech at an awards show thanking God for their hit song about a late-night booty call, when it comes to God, we are all over the place.

Like a mirror, God appears to be more and more a reflection of whoever it is that happens to be talking about God at the moment.


**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, You once said through Isaiah the prophet, “My ways are not your ways…” It seems that the essence of sin is going my own way arrogantly especially when Your way is known to me. How prideful and stubborn of me. I humble myself this day and beg for Your forgiveness.

May my heart be converted with the help of Your Grace so that I may live the way You desire for me to live. Amen