October 24, 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

What in the world did He Who is known as “The Prince of Peace” mean when He said, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace...No, I tell you, but rather division”??? He offers us a clue in John 14:27..."Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

Jesus’ idea of Peace and the world’s idea are two different things. For the world, peace means an absence of war or a calm in the storm. It means that one must maintain the status quo so as to not rock the boat. Things that need to be said remain unsaid and things that need to be done remain undone. But underneath this fake calm lies anxiety, nervousness...anything but peace. The word that Jesus used for peace is the Hebrew word "shalom" which means essentially
that everything is right, between you and me, between me and God, between me and my world. It means that I have everything I need to live life in a manner that is dignified. It mean I am whole and free from fear. To get to this Peace it will take honesty, openness and yes, work. There must be crisis first before there can be true shalom.

Food for your Journey

What killed Jesus was not irreligion, but religion itself; not lawlessness, but precisely the law; not anarchy but the upholders of order. It was not the bestial but those considered best who crucified the one in whom the divine Wisdom was visibly incarnate. And because he was not only innocent, but the very embodiment of true religion, true law and true order, this victim exposed their violence for what it was: not the defense of society but an attack against God.
--Walter Wink, Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination (Fortress, 1992), 139-140.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the courage and wisdom to change what needs to be changed in my life so that I can, finally, unite my will to Your will and my heart to Your heart. May I then experience the Peace that this world can never give. Amen