November 14, 2019

Scripture

Luke 17:20-25

Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply, "The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." Then he said to his disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. There will be those who will say to you, 'Look, there he is,' or 'Look, here he is.' Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Pharisees had nothing but contempt for Jesus because He was from Galilee, a place of “no ones” and “nobodies”. They asked Him about the Kingdom of God not because they were humbly seeking information, but rather, to make Him look foolish in public because He didn’t appear scholarly or sophisticated enough to have such knowledge. Jesus, however, had given them already plenty of information but they were too arrogant to accept it. What had He said? The Kingdom is a mystery. It is not a place or time. It is a reality that exists by virtue of God’s Grace that can only be described through stories. It is like: a mustard seed, a small amount of yeast, a lost sheep, a lost coin, a Prodigal Son, a dragnet thrown into the sea., etc., etc. You know it by living it and it is lived only after you surrender to it.
Food for your Journey

In Art and Chip Sansom’s comic strip The Born Loser, a mother is leaning over the back of her husband’s chair, where he rests with his young son sitting on his lap.
“Have you ever had a near-death experience, Pop?” asks the lad.
“Can't say as I have, my boy,” replied the father.
Whereupon the mother intrudes: “The question is, has he ever had a near-life experience?”
Definitely describes a lot of us lifelong church folks!

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You once taught the disciples that the only way one can enter the Kingdom is to become like a child. At the surface level that sounds easy, but it’s not. Help me, therefore, to become truly humble and child-like. Take away my arrogance and haughtiness and open me completely to You. Amen