Luke 19:41-44

As Jesus drew near Jerusalem,
he saw the city and wept over it, saying,
"If this day you only knew what makes for peace—
but now it is hidden from your eyes.
For the days are coming upon you
when your enemies will raise a palisade against you;
they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides.
They will smash you to the ground and your children within you,
and they will not leave one stone upon another within you
because you did not recognize the time
of your visitation."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because it's inhabitants were so caught up in doing their own thing and going their own way, that they failed to see and hear God’s Prophet in their midst Who had been calling them to change. They would end up paying dearly for that sin. What about us? When I look at the state of our country, it seems that we are blinded and deaf as well to the “signs of the times”. Many are obsessed with sex, stuff and every new fad that emerges. Too many have demanded change for change’s sake, especially of our God-given institutions including Christian marriage and worship. The ego reigns supreme to the extent that many think the human person is in control of everything from the weather to the very act of human creation itself. God’s teachings are viewed as either irrelevant or unlawful. We are sick. There is only one Doctor and one medicine that can help us and that medicine will only be effective on the humble of heart.

Food for your Journey
For most individuals living in the 21st century, life has become a blur of comings and goings punctuated by guilt about how much faster they should be “coming and going.” When did time become such a drama? I don’t remember my Italian grandmother, Francesca, discussing how quickly she needed to get through making her spaghetti sauce so she could start making the meatballs. I watched her chop, sauté and stir the ingredients as if she were creating a masterpiece (which she was). She would stop and savor the contents periodically, offering those around her small tastes for approval. She sauntered, rather than scurried, through her days.

I remember hearing my mother say over and over, “Do one thing at a time.” Now we believe that in order to be really effective, we must multitask. The result: a severely stressed-out population that can’t focus on anything for any length of time. How many of you are on the phone with one person while you e-mail another?

The insanity of hurriedness has permeated every facet of life and prevents us from being able to enjoy our friends, families and ourselves to the fullest. Nobody seems capable of simply being where they are without thinking or saying they should be somewhere else. I am a regular observer of societal absurdity and nothing makes me laugh more than people making irrational comments because they’re kept waiting from getting on to the next thing. The last time I was in the car with my friend Janet and we were stuck in traffic, she turned to me and said, “Where did all these cars come from?” I responded by saying, “It’s a road.” She looked a little aggravated.
but then she suddenly burst into laughter, recognizing how her need to get somewhere was making her unable to easily deal with the inconvenience of waiting a few minutes.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You and only You are the light of the world. The world, due to man’s folly, is submerged in darkness, pain, confusion and despair. The “lie” reigns supreme. But Lord, Your light shines even through such darkness. You are Truth and life. Help me, Lord, to rise above the madness so that I may see and embrace Your light. Amen

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