

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

February 9, 2016

Scripture

Mark 7:1-13

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,

they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

(For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders.

And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves.

And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.)

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him,

“Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”

He responded,

“Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

In vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."
He went on to say,
"How well you have set aside the commandment of God
in order to uphold your tradition!
For Moses said,
Honor your father and your mother,
and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.
Yet you say,
'If someone says to father or mother,
"Any support you might have had from me is qorban"'
(meaning, dedicated to God),
you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother.
You nullify the word of God
in favor of your tradition that you have handed on.
And you do many such things."

Our Scripture Reflection

"Hypocrite" is the most common indictment used by Jesus of the religious leaders and teachers. The word comes from a Greek word meaning "stage actor." The leaders pranced on the stage of life pretending to follow the commandments and live their faith. However, their hearts were not invested. As we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, resolve to be "authentic" in your practice of the faith and that begins by, first, being real with Jesus.

Food for your Journey

I didn't want to deal with my past, my problems or my sin. I was content to work 70 or 80 hours a week in hopes that I'd never have to look inside and see the pain, the emptiness or the poor decisions. Every night as I lay in bed, I hoped that I wouldn't awake in a cold sweat, in utter fear of being caught by God. I was convinced that the day was coming when God would come to his senses and realize that he'd made a huge mistake, that he didn't intend to be using Trevor Bron, and that it must have been some sort of administrative oversight. And when it all came to a crashing halt that day in March of 2001, all my fears came to fruition. God had indeed pulled me over, but not for the reasons I'd thought of late at night in my bed. He pulled me over to ask ... two questions. "Will you rise above it?" and "Will you allow me to heal it for you?"

— Trevor Bron, *From the other side: words of a pastor living in the restoration process.*

Prayer from the Heart

Give me the love that leads the way,
the faith that nothing can dismay,
the hope no disappointments can tire,
the passion that will burn like fire.
Let me not sink to be a clod.
Make me thy fuel, flame of God!

--Saint Augustine



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