



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection October 25, 2020

Sunday Reflection Quote: “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” — Augustine of Hippo, Confessions

Scripture (More from the Beatitudes, Matt 5:3-12): “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matt 5:3,4)

For What do we Mourn?

We all mourn, but for what? The kind of mourning Jesus is speaking of is not the mourning of a melancholy nature. It is not sorrow over temporal distress. It is not sorrow in adversity. It is not sorrow because of disappointed hopes. It is not sadness over the loss of a loved one. Nor is it grieving over loss of a job or money or social status. If we acknowledge that “poor in spirit” means lacking a spiritual grounding, then we should understand the grief in verse 4 as spiritual loneliness or spiritual loss. It is the absence of spiritual joy ... or even faith if you will.

Many are quite satisfied with the surface life they live most of the time. Yet in the back of our minds we are aware that we lack something, and all too often we still cling to the hope that this grief can be covered over by the material things of this world. We often hear sin defined as a separation from God. So, we can regard our mourning as not just a separation from God, but a substitution of things for God. The mourning of the Beatitudes can only be comforted by a reconnecting with God, the source and sustainer of our lives, like the quote above states: “our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”

Here’s a short prayer to use this week as we find our way back on the path to God:

O Lord God, when shall I be made one with thee and be molten into thy love, so that I wholly forget myself? Be thou in me, and I in thee; and grant that we may so abide, always together in one. (from the Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis)

We must come to the stage when we feel that nothing can give us peace except the vision of God. Then God draws our minds to Himself as a magnet draws a needle, and comfort comes.

Special prayers this week: an end to the fires raging in the West, especially Colorado, Arizona, and California; the health of those suffering during the pandemic; our friends and family undergoing medical treatments; special prayers for health and healing for Ron, Debbi, John, Debbie; May the peace of God be with us always. Amen – Vance

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