

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Ephesians 2:4-10*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 3:14-21*

WHEN you come to Mass every Sunday and listen to 3 readings, do you hang on to something that you have just listened to, perhaps a word, a brief instruction or a parable with a great message in it? I suppose that depends on what “reaches” you personally ; what’s meaningful for you may not be so meaningful for the person next to you.....

For me, having gone thru’ the three readings, there is something at the end of the 2nd reading that draws my attention ; st.Paul speaks to the Ephesians, referring to us human beings, he says **WE ARE GOD’S WORK OF ART, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE AS FROM THE BEGINNING HE HAD MEANT US TO LIVE IT...**

How do these words of the apostle appeal to you? **WE ARE GOD’S WORK OF ART !!!!!** or was st.Paul a bit of a dreamer when he wrote that?, hardly!, apostles don’t live in a world of illusions, their task is to speak the Truth ; “God’s work of art”!!, I suppose others would come along and say “No!, not at all!!!!, we humans are God’s greatest mistake!!, God’s greatest disaster!!, but that can’t be right, God dosen’t make mistakes and we humans create our own disasters...

Do the following words from to-day’s Gospel come across as a “mistake” **GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON . . . ? NO!, THAT’S NO MISTAKE**, that’s the Truth ; we may also interpret those same words as **GOD LOVED HUMANKIND SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON..**

In other words, no matter how we see ourselves collectively and individually in a broken sinful world, we still remain more than precious in the eyes of God.....

AND that goes for all of us, from the greatest to the least **GOD HAS NO FAVOURITES, HE DOES NOT DEAL IN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT**, the best and the worst of sinners among us are all precious in his sight ; IF that be the case, then **WHY** are we here in this mortal life? we already have the answer in that same 2nd reading from st.Paul **....CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE AS FROM THE BEGINNING HE HAD MEANT US TO LIVE IT ...**

“the good life” means to live righteously and to keep our sinful inclinations under control, also to give praise and glory to God in the midst of all those good and bad experiences that life throws at us as we journey towards Heaven. So perhaps on this 4th Sunday of Lent, you and I could remind ourselves once again of WHO we are before God, and of our common purpose while here in this world ; as the apostle expresses it, WE ARE GOD’S WORK OF ART, our purpose is to serve Him with our talents, our abilities, our time and with our material goods, this is the “GOOD LIFE”, a life that is pleasing to God ;

For what it’s worth, I’ll conclude by quoting from John O’Donoghue’s excellent book “ETERNAL ECHOES”.....referring to our human existence here in this life, the writer states WE HUMANS ARE MERELY GUESTS OF THE EARTH ; a guest is only passing thru’ and moving on to a defined destination or other ; our destination as GOD’S-WORK-OF-ART is of course to reach Heaven, as guests of the earth, we are only passing thru’ with Eternity ahead of us

.....stay healthy.....be well.....keep the Faith, it will get us to eternal glory

P.SNo doubt the “talk-of-the-town” during this last week has been that of Meghan, Harry and the rest of the royals ; this, for me, is a very sad saga ; a family (the royal family!) with internal problems to deal with!, why does the whole world have to know what’s going on?, and of course that huge mystery WHO WAS IT WHO MADE THE COMMENT ABOUT THE COLOUR OF THE SKIN of their 1st born, Archie???

Presently there are far more IMPORTANT issues to deal with as the Covid-19 continues to cause uncertainty for all of us ; the colour of the skin of a newly-born-royal and who-said-what, is of absolutely no significance to the huge number of workers who may not have a job to return to ; as stated in last Sunday’s reflection, this is an awful time for workers in general ,”WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MY JOB?” ; though there is a furlough scheme in place but it’s not the same as heading off to work every day. THE SHEER-WAITING-AND-WAITING day after day for something definite can trigger sickness and despair ; leave the royals to deal with their own internal disharmony, that’s their business, not ours, they’ll always have a good dinner, but that is not the case for many other families who are now bankrupt and have to ask for help from local charities.....Pray another Rosary this weekend for the broken hearted, they are not far from any of us.....

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