

14A SML 2020  
MT 11:25-30

“Come to Me, all you who are labored and heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.” (MT 11:20) Everywhere else but Jesus, such liberation promised is either armed or forced, and that can mean slavery. Only nailed love is free. Unnailed and crucified love can compel. Hands nailed to the cross cannot force. Neither can a lifted Host or elevated Chalice constrain, but they can beckon and they can solicit.

That kind of love gives us three suggestions for living in troubled times, and are we not living in troubled times. Can you remember a Fourth of July when our country has been in such peril? Not in my life time.

First, never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the philosophy of the Cross which starts with a fast and ends with the feast, and the philosophy of Satan, which starts with a feast and ends in hell. Unless there is a Cross, there will never be an empty tomb. Unless there is faith in darkness, there will never be the vision of light. Unless there is a Good Friday, there will never be an Easter Sunday.

Second, when sorrow comes, when the “slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune” strike, when like Simon of Cyrene a

cross is laid upon your reluctant shoulders, take that cross to Mass, and at the moment of consecration, when Our Blessed Lord says, "Take, this is My Body, this is My Blood," you say to Our Blessed Lord, "This is my body. Take it. This is my blood. Take it. They are yours. Meaning, take my life Lord. Take my cross, my "this," whatever I'm carrying that is just been too heavy to carry. You take it Lord. I am no longer mine, Lord, I'm yours."

And third, in your Holy Hour, (and I've preached about making a Holy Hour in our Adoration Chapel countless times since the Chapel has been here), in your Holy Hour, do not think of Our Blessed Lord as a kind of absentee landlord who is beyond your reach because He is right there in the monstrance. Do not be afraid of Him, as God is more patient with you than you are with Him and you are with yourself. Approach Him with full confidence, with the boldness of a child who asks his Dad for favors.

Though God may not grant what you ask, as a Dad may not give his son what he asks, but he picks him up in his arms to console him, giving the response of love even in the denial of the request. In praying, you receive what it is you really need, and that is the intimate love of Our Blessed Lord. And do

not forget there are three answers to prayer, not two. One is “yes.” The other is “no.” And the third is “wait.”

And while waiting, the nature of your requests may change. You will ask for less and less, and for more and more of His love. The more you love someone, the more you seek to give and the less you seek to receive.

If the Lord came into your room as you were praying so earnestly for a cure for your granddaughter, to heal her leukemia, and He put His Hand on your shoulder, would you repeat the petition, as if He never heard it the one hundred times you already prayed that petition? No. Like the hemorrhaging woman, you would merely touch the hem of His garment. And you would feel such a calmness, such a sense of security with His hand on your shoulder.

A favorite scene of mine in the movie “Risen,” which is about the Roman centurion who saw Jesus die on the cross. After the Resurrection, word is spreading that His followers were saying Jesus is “risen,” so the Roman soldiers are hunting down the Apostles. This Roman soldier who saw Him die and said, “Surely this Man is the Son of God” finds the Apostles in the Upper Room with Jesus. The soldier sneaks Jesus and His Apostles out of Jerusalem and becomes a

follower himself. One night, on a mountain, it's just Our Risen Lord and the centurion – just the two of them, alone. And the centurion says, “I don't even know what to ask?” Neither would I. You don't need to ask. You just need to be.

Today's “Come to Me” Gospel is not something Our Lord said once. He also said it:

- ✓ in Sirach (24:18), the Lord said, “Come to me, all you that yearn for me.”
- ✓ and a gain in John's Gospel (7:37), “. . . Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink.”

From 2007 – 2016, a monk received messages from Our Lord and Our Lady in the silence of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. These messages were written down in his book entitled *In Sinu Jesu*, or in English, “On the Chest of Jesus.” It was a great read. I'll close this homily with a message the monk received on the First Sunday of Advent in 2008. This is the Lord speaking:

In this Sacrament I wait for you. So many emphasize that they must wait for Me, and yet I am already present, close to them, and disposed to reveal to them the secrets of My Heart. They forget that it is I who wait for them to come to Me. How often did I said to My disciples, “Come to Me.”

They understood, at least most of them did, the intensity of My longing for the company of souls. I would have all souls come to me and remain with Me.

Come to Me all you who labor and are heavily burdened. And I will give you rest.