

VDEI USA Team Lesson – February, 2017

FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS, PP. 65-76 “Charity of God – Christ”

Opening prayer

Psalm 139 p 69

O Lord you have probed me and you know me;
You know when I sit and when I stand;
You understand my thoughts from afar.
My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,
with all my ways you are familiar.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold O Lord, you know the whole of it.

The House of the Lord

Imagine that you are building your dream home. You have lived in many houses – mostly designed by others for people who occupied the space before you, and there was always something that wasn't right about those houses. Now you know what you want and what you need, and you hire an excellent carpenter named Jesus to help you complete the project. This carpenter is so skilled that he makes suggestions and guides your decision-making at crucial points in the process. The result is a spectacular, custom-made home and an extraordinary friendship. But when the carpenter tells you that he would now like to move in, you experience a wave of panic and agitation. You can picture what this would mean – encountering him every morning at breakfast, spending time with him every evening, sharing him with family and friends, having him participate in all your activities. You would need to be welcoming and present to this ever-present guest.

Sometimes we're more comfortable with the idea that the realms of heaven and earth are separate and distinct. Yet Jesus' coming to live with us and among us and within us has totally changed that way of thinking. All the places we live must be “the house of the Lord.”

Questions

1. Would I be able to welcome Jesus as a housemate? Fr. Parent asserts that “...you demand my attention, my consent, my friendship in order to work in me” (p. 73). Does this awareness of his presence modify or adjust my feelings? schedule? activities?
2. Fr. Parent references John's Gospel. Christ says:
Remain in my love...I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and your joy might be complete. With all that surrounds me, what strategies do I use to remain truly in the presence of God?

3. Fr. Parent expresses his desire "...to be the vehicle for your (Christ's) charity" (p. 73).
How can I be truly a vehicle of Christ's peace? How can I be a vehicle of service?
4. How am I being pruned by current events that shape my Voluntas life?
5. What is the evidence, and where is the fruit, in my life?

Closing prayer

Jesus, insofar as I set aside time for prayer, apply myself to my spiritual exercise, live my attitudes of soul (my 5 points), I will feel my union with you grow.

Insofar as I force myself to live the present moment, to search for the positive around me, in persons, events and things, to create truly Christian contacts, I will feel your mentality invade me.

I want your Spirit to pass through me to touch the people that you place on my path. I truly want to be the vehicle of your charity as Mary was, each day of my life.

Send me Mary, your mother, to direct my affections, to preserve my heart intact for your service.