

Reflection Tuesday 1st week of lent 2022

Focusing on the Coming of the Kingdom, Shane Claiborne writes (abridged):

Something powerful happens when we connect our faith with the pain of the world. We focus not just on going to heaven when we die but with bringing God's kingdom down here. This means figuring out how to be a part of the restoration of the world. What does it mean for us to pray the Lord's Prayer in our neighbourhood and that God's kingdom come on earth as in heaven? We pray and act for this every day believing that God's kingdom is coming and wanting it to come.

There is a growing desire in the Church to marry action and contemplation, to connect orthodoxy and orthopraxis. We are not throwing out things we believe, but we are focusing on practices that work out those beliefs. Jesus invites us to join our actions with a *movement* rather than ideas and doctrine.

We all need examples of people who have joined their faith to action like Francis and Clare of Assisi. Mother Teresa's life was her witness. She wasn't a champion of unborn children because she wore a t-shirt that said "*Abortion Is Murder*," but because she welcomed mothers and children. In essence, she said, "*If you can't raise your child, we'll do it together.*" That kind of embodiment comes when we seek to marry our beliefs to our actions. This is not just being pro-life or pro-choice but being *pro-active*? This would mean offering care to a fourteen-year-old girl and her child together.

Mother Teresa's message was, "*Calcutta is everywhere, if we only have eyes to see.*" The Lord's prayer offers us a way of seeing our own Calcutta: the pain, poverty, loneliness, and ostracizing that happens everywhere. Each of us encounters situations that demand both prayer and action. Pray that God give us eyes to see the pain of our neighbourhoods and the courage to respond.

Pope Francis on the temptations in the wilderness

Jesus *does not enter a discussion with the devil*, but responds to the three challenges with only the *Word of God*. This teaches us that one does not dialogue with the devil; one must not discuss; one only responds to him with the *Word of God*.