

Reflection Tuesday 2nd Week Lent 2022

How easy it is to misunderstand Jesus and misrepresent his teaching. Jesus reminds us that there is only one Teacher, God, who teaches us through Jesus Christ. When you are asked to humble yourself, it sounds good but is impossible to do. We act humbly when we do not attempt to do so. Being humble means putting other people first and not thinking about yourself at all which humbling yourself cannot do. There is no I in humble. We act humbly when we seek the good and the welfare of others, when, as Isaiah says, we reach out to those in need, the oppressed, those lacking the essentials of life: food, water, clothing. We act humbly when we do not count the cost, and, when we feel weary, washed out and lack energy, we receive them as a blessing.

Humility: Robert William Service

I met upon a narrow way,
dead weary from his toil,
a fellow warped and gnarled and grey,
who reeked of sweat and soil.
His rags were ready full to rot,
his eyes were dreary dim;
yet . . . yet, I had the humble thought
to raise my hat to him.

For thinks I: It's the likes of him
that makes the likes of me;
with horny hand and lagging limb
he slaves to keep me free;
that I may have a golden time,
and praise the Lord on high,
life grinds into the bloody grime
a better man than I.

Yet if in sheer humility
I yield this yokel place,
will he not think it mockery
and spit into my face,
saying: "How can you care a damn,
as now my way you bar,
when it's because of what I am,
you, Sir, are what you are?"

But no, he did not speak like that,
nor homage did I pay;
I did not lift my bowler hat
to greet his common clay;
instead, he made me feel an ass,
as most respectfully
he stepped aside to let me pass,
and raised his cap to ME!

St Anselm (1033-1109) suggests humility is like this: *"Lord, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you."*