

Reflection Saturday Week 15 2022

Jesus stands in complete contrast to the image of God given by Isaiah. Given the wars, violence and injustice in the world today, we need a Jesus figure again. Do not mistake Jesus' avoidance of confrontation as weakness. Jesus still wanted to spend time with the people he loved and bring them healing and forgiveness. Jesus shows that he had control over when he died by avoiding confrontation. He did not go looking for death. We know from the struggle Jesus had in the Garden of Gethsemane that he challenged his Father as to the timing of his impending death. In this Jesus made it clear that he wished to fulfil the will of his Father, not his own will. The struggle also shows the full humanity of Jesus, the enormity of his struggle and the depth of his love for us.

*I will accept thy will to do and be,
thy hatred and intolerance of sin,
thy will at least to love, that burns within
and thirsteth after Me:
so will I render fruitful, blessing still,
the germs and small beginnings in thy heart,
because thy will cleaves to the better part.—
Alas, I cannot will.*

*Dost not thou will, poor soul? Yet I receive
the inner unseen longings of the soul,
I guide them turning towards Me; I control
and charm hearts till they grieve:
if thou desire, it yet shall come to pass,
though thou but wish indeed to choose My love;
for I have power in earth and heaven above.—
I cannot wish, alas!*

*What, neither choose nor wish to choose? and yet
I still must strive to win thee and constrain:
for thee I hung upon the cross in pain,
how then can I forget?
If thou as yet dost neither love, nor hate,
nor choose, nor wish,—resign thyself, be still
till I infuse love, hatred, longing, will.—
I do not deprecate.. Christina Rossetti*

The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his children together and, to find out which one should have the present, he asks:

"Who is the most obedient? Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?" The five children answer in union. "Okay, Dad. You get the toy."