

Reflection Wednesday Week 14 2022

Once again, our readings remind us of our mission. We, like the Apostles, are sent out to preach Good News. Some believe this means rooting out and banishing evil, others, like the apostles and the disciples, believed that the Good News of Jesus Christ was sufficient, knowing that where the Good News reigns, evil has no place.

A Story: The Kingdom of God is like two brothers called by God to give up all they had and serve humanity. The older responded to the call generously, though he had to wrench his heart from his family and the girl he loved and wanted to marry. He went to a distant land where he spent himself in the service of the poorest of the poor. A persecution arose in that country, he was arrested, falsely accused, tortured, and put to death.

And the Lord said to him, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You gave me a thousand gold coins worth of service. I shall now give you a billion, billion gold coins in return. Enter into the Kingdom of God."*

The younger brother's response to the call was less than generous. He decided to ignore it and marry the girl he loved. He enjoyed a happy married life, his business prospered, and he became famous and rich. Occasionally he sent alms to his brother.

When he eventually died, the Lord said to him, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have given me ten gold coins worth of service. I shall now give you a billion-billion gold coins in return. Enter into the Kingdom of God!"* The older brother was surprised to discover that his brother received the same reward as he had, but, he said, *"Lord, knowing this as I do now, if I were to be born and live my life again, I would still do exactly what I did for you."*

(Anthony de Mello)

A lawyer dies and manages to go to heaven. On arrival, he's greeted by St. Peter himself. The lawyer says, *"What happened? I wasn't in an accident and I'm too young to die. I'm only 52!"* St. Peter says, *"Nope, by our records, you are 84, and that's a pretty good life-span."* The lawyer yells, *"84! How did you figure that?"* St. Peter responds, *"We added up your client billing time sheets!!!!"*