

Written by Bobot Apit

Friday, 20 November 2009 19:36 - Last Updated Tuesday, 24 November 2009 09:04

However, if we take our faith seriously, we will face times when we will be called to take a stand or to speak truth to power. Like St. Thomas More or Atticus Finch we won't be able to evade the call and still call ourselves Christians. "You will be hated by all because of my name but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Wednesday of the 34th Week in Ordinary Time

Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28

Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67

Luke 21:12-19 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. (13) This will be a time for you to bear testimony. (14) Settle it, therefore, in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; (15) for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. (16) You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; (17) you will be hated by all for my name's sake. (18) But not a hair of your head will perish. (19) By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Meditation by Eileen Wirth

The creepy image of God's hand writing on the wall haunts me as I ponder today's reading from Daniel the day before Halloween. But the image of Daniel, an alien, risking everything to speak truth to a tyrant is even more haunting.

Talk about a situation you'd never want to be in! Talk about moral courage!

Whenever I watch one of my two favorite movies, "A Man for All Seasons" or "To Kill a Mockingbird" for the umpteenth time, I'm blown away by the moral courage of St. Thomas More and the fictional Atticus Finch. Because they were sane people with a lot to lose, they didn't want to be heroes. However, like Daniel, they took a stand even though they knew the potential cost.

In today's Gospel from Luke, Jesus suggests that this is what every Christian must be prepared to do.

"They will seize and persecute you. They will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name."

Is this what we signed on for when our parents had us baptized? Most of us just want to stumble through life as painlessly as possible.

However if we take our faith seriously, we will face times when we will be called to take a stand or to speak truth to power. Like St. Thomas More or Atticus Finch we won't be able to evade the

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call and still call ourselves Christians. I'm positive that somewhere today:

- A kid who believes in Jesus will befriend a classmate who is being bullied or eat lunch with a girl that the "popular" crowd shuns.
- A senior citizen who believes in Jesus is welcoming a minority family to the block even though the other neighbors are hostile.
- A middle manager who believes in Jesus is risking his job to blow the whistle on corruption or to protest sexual harassment of a co-worker.

Eventually we will all be asked to follow the example of Daniel and the teachings of Jesus, even in such modest ways. The closing words of today's Gospel should give us the strength to do so:

"You will be hated by all because of my name but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Supplementary Reading
GoD Will PRoVIDE

{xtypo_quote} ... when he realized that he was healed, he turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. – Luke 17:15 {/xtypo_quote}

When I was in high school, I used to make a daily list I called "The Positives." They were a bunch of good things that happened to me within the day that I was thankful for. They can be as deep as passing a really difficult exam, or healing of my sickness or someone else's, or as simple as getting to eat ice cream that day. It helped me to be thankful about everything.

I don't know why I stopped writing that. Maybe it's because sometimes I find it hard to think of things to be thankful for. Which is kind of silly, since there are so many things to be thankful for every single day, even if nothing "special" happened. Let's see:

1. I have food on my table.
2. My family is complete.
3. I have a great job.
4. I have a home.
5. I have great friends.
6. I have a God who loves me very much that He showers me with blessings I hardly even notice.

What's there not to be thankful for?

Hmm, I think I should start writing that list again. ---Tina Matanguihan

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What are you thankful for today?

Create in me a grateful heart, o Lord.

For meditation/readings of the previous days/months , please click a

<http://his-ways-better-than-our-ways.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.mabuhayradio.com/sections/the-daily-bread.html>

<http://butuangularforum.org/cgi-bin/dboard/YaBB.pl?num=1229339492/220>

<http://www.tlig.org/en/messages/>

Daily Mass and Gospel [Meditation Breadcast](#)

GOD BLESS US ALL! O Theos Na Mas Evlogisi!

PRAY as if everything depended on **HIM** **ACT**

as if everything depended on **YOU**.

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