

Reflections

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Fear or Confidence

Often Jesus exhorts his disciples: “Do not be afraid.” And there is no doubt that this exhortation is directed today to us as well: “Do not be afraid.”

The Lord knows it and we always experience anew that fear is a primary feeling of man. Attached to human existence is helplessness and insecurity and, consequently, anxiety and fear, be it hidden or evident, conscious or not.

And today, the feelings of fear or impotence against the dark risks and threats of life are greater than ever before and accompany us on each step of the way.

We are anxious about the social economic situation of our country, and for the political future of our community.

Parents are concerned about the future of their children and their family. The elderly and retired persons are concerned for their daily bread. Many are afraid of others, not only of assailants and wrong-doers, but also of neighbors or relatives, and are even afraid of God. And, ultimately, we are all afraid of death.

Why so much lack of confidence and fear? What is the meaning of insecurity and anxiety which we suffer with in the world at present?

A known truth, which we forget in the hustle and bustle of our life, reveals to us that we cannot find security and shelter in this world.

We have to find them in the other world, we should seek them in God. The extraordinary fear of today – in its positive value – leads us to seek God’s help.

This is what the Heavenly Father wants to tell us through our difficult situation:

Seek tranquility, protection and shelter in Me, in my kind hands, in my fatherly heart.

Because God is not only concerned about the world in general, nor about a particular people, but also – motivated by profound fatherliness – He watches over each individual. Jesus frequently stresses that the Heavenly Father is personally concerned for each person, even about his most insignificant trifles.

“Are not a pair of sparrows sold for a few coins? And, nevertheless, not one falls to the ground unless your Father wills it. And you, even the hairs on your head are counted. Therefore, do not be afraid, there is no comparison between you and the sparrows.” He who takes care of the birds in the sky, how much more does He not care for each human being, how much more does He not love, with his fatherly love, all his children.

We should all become heroes of confidence. Without that childlike confidence, today it is impossible to remain firm and victorious amidst the storms of this world. Life today cannot be mastered, none of us can do it if God is not at our side.

So, if we have that profound confidence in God, we will conquer the fear and insecurity of this world. If we accept in childlikeness the Will of the Father, in both happy times as in difficult times, thus giving a valiant testimony to Christ, then He will someday receive us in the home of the Father.

“If one is with Me before men, I will also be with him before my Father in Heaven. And if one denies Me before men, I will also deny him before my Father in Heaven.”

Questions for reflection

1. Am I fearful about the future?
2. What things cause me anxiety

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