

Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

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Human And Divine Criteria

The Apostle Peter received the harshest reprimand in the entire Gospel: “Get out of my sight, Satan, you make me stumble, you think like men, not like God.”

The word of the Lord is singularly hard. He shows that the matter is very important to Him. His way will lead him to Golgotha, according to the Will of the Father. And if Peter wants to stand in the way, Jesus has to reject him because Peter is not thinking with supernatural criteria, but with merely natural criteria.

Modern man, when he reflects, becomes unsettled and even anxious when facing the world. Even though each time he understands and masters it better, he continues incapable of giving meaning to it. Only the Christian, with faith, penetrates the mysteries of the world. From the Incarnation, everything, each happening, each person has a double aspect; one earthly and the other heavenly. Only the Christian can contemplate the universe and humanity in all its truth. Only he possesses faith, this double vision which allows him to penetrate the world in its totality. Through faith we change our near-sightedness for God’s own vision.

If we knew how to contemplate life with God’s eyes, we would see that in the world there is nothing profane, but that everything has its meaning and its mission in the make-up of the Kingdom of God. We would then understand that everything is nothing more than a great march of mankind and of the entire universe toward God.

If we would have purified our vision sufficiently, the world would no longer be an obstacle for us. On the contrary, it would be a continuous need to work for the Father so that his Kingdom would take place on earth.

But, for how many is faith this light which illuminates all life and guides it even to its smallest details? To tell the truth, we are all permanently in danger of seeing the world, the happenings of life, only with our natural near-sighted eyes.

It seems to us that God does not speak the same language as we. Therefore it is so difficult for us to understand Him. God does not have the same ideas, nor the same mentality, nor the same criteria as we.

Therefore, let us resign ourselves to be transformed in our way of seeing things. If we want to become perfect and perfect our life, let us not be content with man’s near-sightedness. Let us find Christ, let us unite to Him: and let us try to think like Him, see like Him, live like Him. He will give us his vision and thus we will know better the true sense of the world, of life, of happenings.

This is precisely what St. Paul exhorts us: “Do not adapt yourselves to this world, but transform yourselves through the renewal of the mind so that you may know how to discern the Will of God, what is good, what is pleasing, what is perfect.”

But in spite of all our efforts, we will continue in this permanent tension between human and divine hope, between natural and supernatural thinking. The same tension with all its weight is suffered by the prophets, they have to preach the message, the designs, the Will of God. But the people do not understand it, nor want to listen.

Thus it happens with all those who do not want to establish themselves definitely in this world, nor want to adapt themselves to the will of the majority. It will happen to us this way if we resist conformity of our time, if we go against the current of propaganda and public opinion.

And thus it will happen especially if we decide fully for Christ and follow Him faithfully on his journey. Because imitation of Christ does not exist without the cross. The Gospel reminds us: “He who wants to come with me must deny himself, must carry his cross and follow me.”

But, at the same time, Jesus also promises us an infinite recompense: “The Son of man will come among his angels, with the glory of his Father and will then reward each one according to his conduct.”

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