



2nd Presentation

“SURVEYING THE LAND”

“LEAD KINDLY LIGHT”

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WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY ALL ABOUT?

- Reconciliation with God — being put in right relationship with God through a spiritual rebirth and filled with the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:1-7)
- Living out our identity as adopted “sons and daughters of God”
- Fighting the Enemy who tells us God is not trustworthy.
- Discovering “redemptive suffering” (Colossians 1:24)

OBSTACLES

Nowadays the kingdom is much spoken of, but not always in a way consonant with the thinking of the Church. In fact, there are ideas about salvation and mission which can be called "anthropocentric" in the reductive sense of the word, inasmuch as they are focused on man's earthly needs. In this view, the kingdom tends to become something completely human and secularized; what counts are programs and struggles for a liberation which is socio-economic, political and even cultural, but within a horizon that is closed to the transcendent. Without denying that on this level too there are values to be promoted, such a notion nevertheless remains within the confines of a kingdom of man, deprived of its authentic and profound dimensions. Such a view easily translates into one more ideology of purely earthly progress. The kingdom of God, however, "is not of this world...is not from the world" (Jn 18:36).

(Redemptoris Missio #17)

OBSTACLES

- Social Justice Teachings apart from faith and personal conversion.
- Not understanding the importance of worship.
- The Centrality of the Eucharist (The Eucharist as GIFT and profound source of healing)

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

- God is not always interested in what appears to us to be the most efficient. When the Church is run like a business we lose sight of our unique mission.
- The core of all temptations is to make God secondary.
- We must be open to mystery and not be “know-it-alls” like the Pharisees. The dignity of the human person is the core of all Catholic moral teaching.

CHRISTIAN HOPE

The goal of Christian hope is the kingdom of God, that is the union of world and man with God through an act of divine power and love. The immediate aim that shows us the way and confirms the rightness of the ultimate goal is the perpetual presence of this love and this power that accompanies us in what we do and takes us up at the point where the potential of our own ability to act comes to an end. The internal justification for optimism is the logic of history, which goes its own way and presses forward irrevocably towards its goal: the justification of Christian hope is the incarnation of God's word and love in Jesus Christ.

(The Yes of Jesus Christ pp. 46-47)

A STEEP CLIMB

- We all have Elijah under the broom tree moments. (1 Kings 19:1-12)
- We all can point out failures and disappointments in the Church but must remember we too are the shipwreck of other people's hopes and dreams through our own sinfulness.
- We are on the narrow path.