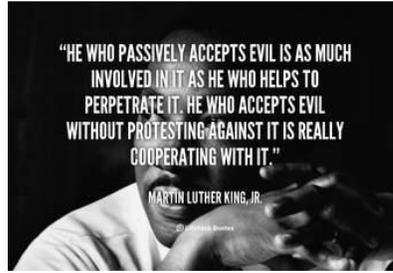


Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, January 15, 2018

Year 2/Cycle B

1Sam.3:3-10, 19

We Are Asleep ...

Welcome to the Ordinary Times for 2018; today we begin the 2nd week of regular readings in cycle B or Year 2. Looking back on the events of this week, I pondered on many facts of the past five days... One can sadly say that there was silence from some of the most important **gatekeepers** of the Catholic faith in the United States. I think what is most painful was that this weekend has been set aside by the United States to reflect on the birth of the only African American with a holiday attached to his name. One can only wonder what Dr. King would say to us today? Maybe words like.... ***Has this great nation fallen asleep?*** There is the perception that everyone entering the United States is running from a desperate situation, this does not really hold true. I can say many of us who migrated from the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, the reasons vary; but for many of us, this is not true. Most of us left good paying professional jobs, personally owned homes with property and hold college degrees and higher. It is sad that many in the United States who hold public office don't hold themselves with the respect for self as well as respect for others in keeping with the high office to which they are attached. I guess the words of Dr. King ring, just as true then and continues to prove that he has a legacy, as his words are applicable right now. (*maybe even more so.*)

"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it."

(Dr. Martin L. King)

The first reading this weekend set during the time when the Prophet Eli, of the priestly order of Levi, was performing his duties in the temple and Samuel was a small boy assigned to assist him. One remarkable comment from the reading noted that it was not common for others to hear God speaking and visions from God had somehow become rare.

“The word of the LORD was scarce and vision infrequent.” (1Sam 3:1)

This can be the reality of our times, humanity with a common vision seem to now be almost non-existent. God’s movement to show humanity that He continues to use the weak, the young and the unknown to do His Will occurs even today; if we are not asleep.

“Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD

where the ark of God was.” (1Sm. 3:1)

How often, while sleeping we clearly hear a voice calling us out of our slumber? Well, if the last thing we did was pray, and slept in the God’s presence, then we can assume that He is speaking to us. How often do we drown out silence and decide that we don’t want to hear that God could be speaking to us? God calls us in our sleep, in our dreams, through our friends, through issues in our society and He will always be the guide to what He needs us to do for Him. The wisdom of the old prophet Eli was that we have to listen quietly to God as we repeat in our hearts.

“Speak, for your servant is listening.” (1Sm, 2:10)

God has not stopped speaking. We in our modern 21st-century society has pushed the voice of God aside and continue to commit to our **‘base’** self of greed, malice, lies, deceit, revenge and the list goes on. God’s message to us is never sweet, easy or palatable. Thousands of years ago, the young boy Samuel was to speak up and speak out against the deceit of his priestly mentor, Eli. In the past, Dr. King was asked to speak up to the federal forces of his country about inhumane and deceitful practices of injustices and prejudices. What has your small voice in the quiet night, asked you to do? The voice of God never asks us to do what we like; God’s voice always causes us to go against the **‘grain’** in our society. He doesn’t ask us to be articulate or understand the long-term vision of the task. God asks us to be **‘awake’** to rise from our slumber to look around and get involved.

I can guess if the events of the past week did not cause us to ponder, pray, and question where are the Catholic church voices; other church voices, the voices of other civic leaders, and we did not lend our voices and our willingness to act.... We have fallen asleep and refused to allow the voice of God to rouse us. Yes, we have sadly as a nation fallen asleep.....

*“He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as
he who helps to perpetuate it.*

*He who accepts evil without protesting against it
is really cooperating with it.”*

(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

.. Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/martin_luther_king_jr_124474

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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