

UNTOLD BLESSING: THREE PATHS TO HOLINESS

EPISODE 2

FINDING THE CENTER, PART II:

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Read the Ecclesiastes 1. What does Solomon say about life "under the sun" (i.e. on the earth)? How does this relate to the image of the Wheel of Fortune that Fr. Barron describes?

Read CCC 2544-2550. What is "detachment from riches" in Jesus' view? Is such detachment optional for the Christian? What is the point of the detachment? Does it mean that we are not allowed to own or enjoy anything?

Read Philippians 4:11-13. How has putting Christ in the center helped Paul survive the ups and downs of his missionary life?

Read John 14:27-30. Jesus speaks these words a few hours before His death by crucifixion. What sort of "peace" can He give to us? How is it different than the peace the world gives?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Where are you now on the Wheel of Fortune: on top, on your way down, at the bottom, or on your way up? What are the appropriate ways to call on the grace of God to help you at each stage of the Wheel?

Read Luke 6:20-22. Have you ever experienced Christ's blessedness in the midst of hunger, mourning, hatred or rejection? If so, please share this experience.

How do Fr. Barron's definitions of poverty of spirit (detachment from material goods), weeping/mourning (detachment from the artificiality of constant good feelings) or hatred (detachment from honor and approval from others) relate to you and your approach to life?

A wise man once said, "You can never get enough of what you don't really want." Have you ever experienced what it is like to become addicted to something other than Christ, trying to find your satisfaction in it above all else? How did you try to dethrone that idol?

Father Barron suggests that we should "love what Jesus loved on the cross and hate what Jesus hated on the cross." In your own words and experiences, how would you define the things Jesus loved and hated while on the cross?