

UNTOLD BLESSING: THREE PATHS TO HOLINESS

EPISODE 5

YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, PART I:

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Read John 21:15-19. What does Jesus ask Peter? Why does He ask him the same thing three times? What is the warning and command Jesus gives to Peter? What is the implication for us?

Read Matthew 13:44-46. Fr. Barron likens the treasure or pearl to our God-given mission in this life. What are some of things we may need to sell in order to acquire the treasure and the pearl?

Fr. Barron mentions Joseph Campbell's remark that a lot of people climb the ladder of success and discover it's up against the wrong wall. Read Luke 12:16-21. What was the folly of the rich fool? How does this story relate to the conflict between the "Ego-drama" and the "Theodrama" that Father mentions?

Read the CCC 1739-1742. What are the true and false conceptions of freedom?

Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does Jesus tell the disciples who, only a few weeks before, had abandoned Him in His darkest hour? What does this imply about His call to us, even when we are struggling with our sinfulness and weakness?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Peter is commanded to feed Jesus' sheep. Who are the sheep you are responsible for? What food do they require?

What are some examples of how our culture often advocates "Sheila-ism" or a religion that is defined by each individual for oneself? How does this contrast with Paul's description of his religious vocation: "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus"?

Compare and contrast your understanding and experiences of the biblical freedom that liberates you from attachment to things of this world so you can follow Christ and the secular notion of freedom as "whatever I want to do as long I don't hurt anyone." How does this conflicting definition play out in the contemporary issues of our times?

Has God ever called you to do something small and unheralded simply for the love of Him? What was that like? Has he ever asked you to do something unpopular with people whose opinion you cared about? What happened?

What are some of the obstacles to living in Christ-like freedom in your life? What are some of the aids and gifts God has given you to help overcome those obstacles? What is a practical step you can take tomorrow to make use of those aids and gifts and take a step toward true freedom?