

UNTOLD BLESSING: THREE PATHS TO HOLINESS

EPISODE 6

YOUR LIFE IS NOT ABOUT YOU, PART II:

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Read the CCC 293-294. Why was the universe created? Where are we situated in that universe and what is our purpose and happiness there?

Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Matthew 16:21-23. How does God's revelation of Himself to Isaiah find fulfillment in Jesus' rebuke of Peter? How does Jesus regard His own suffering in relationship to the good of the world?

Read Matthew 23 and John 19:8-11. How does Jesus speak about the truth and responsibility of earthly power? How does our earthly perspective differ from the heavenly perspective?

Read 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-16. How does Paul understand our relationship to one another in the Body of Christ? What is the purpose of the gift each of us has been given?

Read the CCC 964. How does Mary, the model disciple, endure her sufferings? Read Colossians 1:24-29. How does Paul see his suffering?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

How and when have you caught a glimpse of the artwork that God is creating? In what way did you gain a better understanding of the chaos and messiness of the divine studio when you glimpsed God's "artwork"?

Fr. Barron compares the disciple of Jesus to the sergeant on D-Day who must be obedient to his part of the plan, even though he cannot see the Big Picture. What situations in your life remind you of this sergeant's perspective? How did you handle not being able to see the Big Picture? How do you think a saint would handle it?

Has God ever shown you, as he showed Job, something of the Big Picture that put your life or whatever you were going through at the time in better perspective? What was that like?

Out of duty to a higher purpose, have you ever had to inflict suffering on somebody who did not understand? What happened? Have you ever had to endure such suffering for A God, only to find out later what it all meant? Have you ever experienced a sense of peace in the security that you were suffering for and with Christ crucified?

Father Barron tells the story of Desmond Tutu who, as he was walking, met a man who said, "get off the sidewalk! I don't make way for gorillas." Tutu stepped off the sidewalk and said, "I do." What are other examples from your own life or from contemporary culture that exhibit Jesus' approach to violence or to being held in contempt by others?