

3.12.2016

TO BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY There's a Purpose for Your Pain

Pope Francis declared this is the Year of Mercy. We are exploring the Spiritual Work of Mercy: To Bear Wrongs Patiently.

God has control of our lives. He is preparing us for the next level of our mission on Earth. If we allow it, God's work can come through our pain, and more so, bearing with the wrongs that come into our lives without our volition.

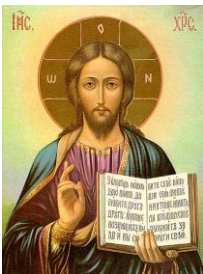
Surely you know that you are God's temple, where the Spirit of God dwells. Anyone who destroys God's temple will himself be destroyed by God, because the temple of God is holy; and you are that temple. St. Paul

There is a lesson to be learned in the pain that will inevitably come into our lives. It is our choice if that pain is categorized as a Pain of Regret or a Pain of Discipline. The Pain of Regret inescapably brings our attention back to ourselves. This self-centeredness is a destructive spin that causes one to continually focus on our own self. The greater world around us and those who need us, go unfulfilled. We become more self-centered.

The Pain of Discipline is one that will bring forth the good that exist in each of us. What becomes increasing important is to use that lesson for the Good of God. We must let go of the pain and remember the lesson. We must let go of the painful event and move on.

Today's talk has a goal of enhancing our relationships. It is through these relationships that we do God's work. We are planted in places, times and relationships to be a witness to Christ. Each of our various relationships and interactions, with others in all walks of life: family, work, significant other, all you come into contact with; has a special message that is to be delivered. You are the Messenger. You have a unique Mission Statement.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.



2 Corinthians 1:2-4 – Clear-cut Direction From God

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.

Matthew 5:10-12 – Jesus Homily to us

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 2:19-21 – Follow Christ's Lead

For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering because of consciousness of God, that is a grace. But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps The Word of the Lord.

Catechism

2447 - Works of Mercy

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.

The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.



Modern Comment

TO BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY: There's a Purpose for Your Pain

Forgiving injuries and bearing wrongs does not mean we stand by and allow truly evil things to keep on happening. It means we don't enter the cycle of revenge and keep hatred breeding by adding our own.

God gives us gifts in Small Packages. Few things hold us back from responding to others' needs more than thinking, "The problem is so huge—what difference can I make?" Or feeling that even what we do to help a small problem won't really matter much. But they're both terribly false.

Many problems are indeed giant-size. But look at the example of Jesus. He did not personally wipe out all disease in the world, or even all disease in Galilee, Samaria and Judea. However He did cure many diseased people. Jesus himself did not personally counsel every discouraged, confused person in all of Palestine. He did give those whose lives touched by his, a golden ray of real hope.

And then he told his disciples—including us—to go about doing the same thing. We can't fix everyone's problems, but we can support and help lots of people in little ways.

We're all richer and better—and more like Jesus—when we put our faith to work with the works of mercy.

There's a purpose for your pain. When you're in a difficult season that you don't understand, don't focus on the pain. Focus on the fact that a new level is coming. The scripture says, "Jesus endured the pain of the cross, looking forward to the joy that was set before him." If you only focus on the now, you'll get discouraged and think, "This is not fair. I can't take this anymore." Have a new perspective, "Yes this is difficult, it's not what I had planned, but I know this pain is not here to defeat me, it's here to promote me, it's a sign I'm about to give birth." Your pain is about to be turned into your gain.

-An excerpt from "Don't Waste Your Pain"
Pastor Joel Osteen

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalms 51:2

Questions to Focus on:

1. What part of Joel's message spoke most clearly to you?

2. Have you had a painful situation that did not make sense to you at the time but later you realized it was for your benefit or for that of others? Explain.

3. Having heard this talk, what might you do differently in the future? Is focusing on yourself as the center of the universe risky to your soul? Explain.

No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he only had good intentions.
Put your Faith into Actions.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group

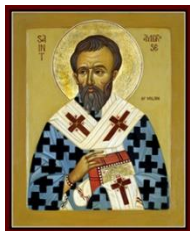
Men's Group Calendar

3/26/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
4/9/2016	CMFNEO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Holiday Inn Rockside 8AM-4PM
4/23/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
5/14/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
5/28/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/11/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
6/25/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library



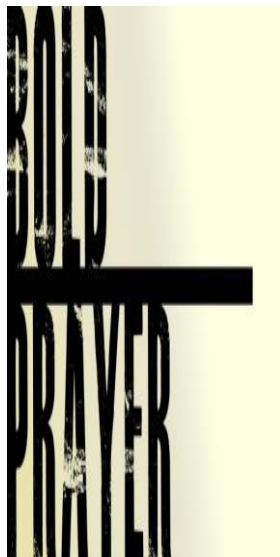
A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

Saints are holy people, just regular human persons who lived extraordinary lives. Saints responded to God's invitation to use their unique gifts. They are teachers and guides for us. God calls each one of us to lead a life of exceptional holiness.



“Paul tells you that every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: go into your “room” to pray. You must understand this is not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections.

This room of prayer is always with you wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you.” Saint Ambrose



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen to God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Practice Bearing Wrongs Patiently.

Dear Jesus, let me become a more Forgiving Man – toward others and my self—so that I may experience healing, peace, and renewal, and be a Blessing to others. Amen.
