
Strange As It Seems.

Perhaps it sounds odd, but examine it. The less a man understands the meaning of moral evil or sin, the more like a whimpering coward he balks at sickness and shrinks from bodily pain. Whoever makes no account of sin cowers at inconvenience and trouble, quakes at physical evils, grows bitter, hates God, calls Him cruel, or even denies His existence.

But the Christian, reflecting on the Passion and Death of His Master, notes in his heart that sin is a horrible thing since, to undo it, God became man and shed His Own Blood. Gladly the Christian takes up his cross to follow his Leader, though it means the Way of the Cross and Crucifixion on Calvary. The Cross, he sees, is the sign of salvation, his only hope.

Sin is nothing to be brushed aside. As a creature, man owes his whole being to God. And so his position is one of humility, close to the ground; of obedience, proper subjection; of gratitude, thanksgiving for gifts. Yet sin is pride, rebellion, the unkindest ingratitude. Sin breaks a man's friendship with God. Sin is always, from every angle, an evil.

But suffering has become, through Christ, almost a sacrament, a stepping stone to eternity. The saints understand this. No man is a thoroughbred Christian without the Cross. By the Cross are we made like Christ.

Physical evils wake us up, teach us the awful malice of sin. In the Garden of Paradise God had blessed our first parents with special privileges over and above the principal one of friendship with Him. God made Adam and Eve originally immune from ignorance, concupiscence, sickness, and death. No sooner was moral evil consented to than God withdrew, as He had promised, the special privileges. Sin made us prey to vehement passions, darkness of mind, weakness of will, pain and the humiliation of death.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. Shea, friend of Ed. Maher (Mor); mother of John J. Rourke '24; uncle of R. Crnkovic '34; grandmother of Lee Read (Dil); aunt of Bob McHale; Sister Mary Genevieve Corcoran (Sisters of St. Joseph). Ill, friend of Eusebio Azpiazu (Cav) Gene White (Boston); mother of Robert Huether (St. Eds.); mother and sisters of John Flanagan (Al); brother of Gerald Hogan (Mor); two uncles of John Sheehan '37. 8 ints.

Life now is a warfare. It is suffering. But to the soldier of Christ, the man who battles heroically, every day, the same old temptations, and faces bravely disappointment, sorrow, and pain, things work out well. By suffering he wins Christ and eternity.

The Christian begins his real life the day of his spiritual rebirth. That is his Bethlehem, his birth as a Son of God. But between that sinless, joyful beginning and the triumphant day of his resurrection, there lies but one road and that is the Way of the Cross. Having started on Christmas toward a glorious Easter, there is no escaping Good Friday.

Father O'Hara resumed the philosophy of Christian suffering well in a recent radio address in behalf of the President's New Foundation for Infantile Paralysis:

"Those who see in physical suffering an argument against Divine Providence receive a stern rebuke from the cheerfulness and moral courage of those who suffer. Suffering is a privilege. Why, physical suffering may be one of the greatest goods in the world. It may sanctify the sufferer and it gives an opportunity for the development of those beautiful virtues of mercy and kindness and patience and benignity without which mankind tends to level off into an animal selfishness. Charity, the love of God and the love of one's fellow-man for the love of God, was the great lesson Christ came to teach, and physical suffering brings out charity in a picturesque and appealing guise. We all have our chance to play the Good Samaritan."

Take A Bow.

A note slipped under the door reads:

"Give the boys a big blow for their fine sportsmanship Saturday night at the Pitt game." Very well, that night you were gentlemen. Be gentlemen always. That, too means a deal of suffering.