



# Come and See!

October 28, 2018

## The Word...

“Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north;  
I will gather them from the ends of the world,  
with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child;  
they shall return as an immense throng.  
They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them...”  
*(from Jer 1:7-9)*

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.  
Although they go forth weeping...they shall come back rejoicing...  
*(from Ps 126)*

## Pondering the Word...

*“When we look into the face of every single refugee, especially the children and women, we can feel their suffering. The goal should be that they return and help rebuild their countries.” (Dalai Lama)*

### Home - Poem by Warsan Shire (©2009, abridged)

no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark...you only leave home when home won't let you stay.  
no one leaves home unless home chases you...  
it's not something you ever thought of doing until the blade burnt threats into your neck  
and even then you carried the anthem under your breath...

you have to understand that no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land...  
no one spends days and nights in the stomach of a truck  
feeding on newspaper unless the miles travelled means something more than journey.  
no one crawls under fences, no one wants to be beaten, pitied, no one chooses refugee camps...

**I want to go home**, but home is the mouth of a shark; home is the barrel of the gun  
and no one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore  
unless home told you to quicken your legs, leave your clothes behind,  
crawl through the desert, wade through the oceans...

no one leaves home until home is a sweaty voice in your ear saying “leave, run away from me now.”  
i don't know what i've become but i know that anywhere is safer than here.

## Living the Word...

I encourage you to read this whole poem, which I have shortened for space reasons, and abridged so as not to disturb—which is precisely what the Somali poet intends—her words are real and strong, and worth prayerful reflection and examination. <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/home-433>

Personal Reflections and Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Oct 29:** *“Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love...Immorality or any impurity or greed must not be mentioned among you...no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, but instead, thanksgiving.”* (Eph 4:32-5:8)

Immorality and greed...silly, suggestive talk, obscenity. You’d think Paul would recommend prayer and fasting, but instead, he says, ‘be thankful.’ Think about that. The idea of being grateful as a solution to what ails us emotionally has really taken hold in secular writings over the past several years, but wisdom figures and mystics have been preaching it for centuries—Meister Eckhart says it is the only prayer that really matters. Most of us say thank you to others without even thinking about it. How about spending today being more aware of things we are (or should be) thankful for: the car starting, the food we eat, clean clothes, a hot shower. Consciously saying thank you allows us to engage God and others on a deeper level. Yes, it is good count our blessings, but it’s even better to say a heartfelt thank you to the source of all of them.

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**Oct 30:** *Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like?”* (Lk 13:18-21)

Jesus uses similes like a mustard seed or yeast, examples to which the people of his time could relate. I wonder what examples he might use today: a tiny computer chip that opens up the whole world? A minuscule cell capable of curing disease? This is a good gospel passage to keep handy, particularly with children. When they have school activities like growing plants; or when they have an idea for a charitable project that comes to fruition. It’s good to point out to our children the small things that work to bring about the Kingdom. Let’s all try today to do the little things that can make a big difference!

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**Oct 31:** *“Slaves, be obedient to your human masters with fear and trembling...Masters, stop bullying, knowing that both they and you have a Master in heaven and that with him there is no partiality.”* (Eph 6:1-9)

Slavery was an unfortunate fact of life in Jesus’ times, a fact that still exists today. We may not call it slavery, but millions live in bondage imposed by poverty, addiction, trafficking, etc. God shows no partiality, but God will judge. What will you do to lessen the burden modern slavery imposes on your brothers and sisters?

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**Nov 1:** *“Blessed are the poor in spirit...they who mourn...the meek...they who hunger and thirst for righteousness...the merciful...the clean of heart...the peacemakers...they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness...”* (Mt 5:1-12)  
*“Christianity has been reproached for trying to deceive people about the reality of earthly suffering by comforting them with the prospect of heavenly blessedness awaiting them. Jesus was not thinking of vague future bliss. For he does not say: Blessed eventually will be those who now suffer. Rather, he promises: Blessed are you now, right this minute while you are suffering.”* (Albert Schweitzer) We are all saints in the making...now, right this minute.

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**Nov 2:** *“Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love...”* (Wis 3:1-9)

Do you trust God? That might seem like a strange question, but consider it for a moment. What does it really mean to trust God? I might trust God on a macro level, but how often do I engage God on the day-to-day decisions I am called to make? The author of Wisdom says if we trust God we will understand truth. That’s another word up for grabs these days. We may feel like Pilate: “What is truth?” (Jn 18:38) Election Day in the US is right around the corner, a good time for us to engage God on a deep, thoughtful, and specific level. What is truth? Pay attention to Jesus’ words today in Mt 25 about what he sees as the truth.

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**Nov 3:** *“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor...Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table.”* (Lk 14:1, 7-11)

This passage begs a few questions: Wouldn’t it be more humble if the person stayed in the lower position? Why would you want to have their egos fed by the esteem of companions? (I can see Jesus rolling his eyes at me again—‘Stop being so nit-picky!’) Jesus is great at reading his audience. He knows how to talk to the poor in language they understand, and he knows how to talk to the rich and powerful as well. So what is Jesus saying to us? Where do I see my position in the great banquet hall? (BTW, this has nothing to do with sitting in the front pew at church.☺) Does the idea of being “chosen” cause me to think I am better than those I perceive as “not chosen?” I can’t tell you the number of times I catch myself feeling entitled, having certain expectations based on my lot in life. Try to be aware today of times when entitlement gets in the way of humility.