

Humility Reaps Rich Rewards.

By Father John Catoir JCD-10/17/17

Some believe in a theology where God rewards his favorite children with worldly riches. But that would make dictators, thieves and con- artists the most favored people on earth. We know that can't be true. Good people are often put at a disadvantage financially because of their faith in Jesus, and His teachings about brotherly love.

Nevertheless, the mystery of love can lead us out of this valley of tears to spiritual happiness, both here and hereafter. This mystery is clearly revealed in the Bible, which culminates with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. St. Paul wrote, "If Christ be not risen, our faith is vain," (1 Cor 15:14).

Jesus Christ was born in a stable. He was poor His entire life. He died on a cross, between two thieves. God always loved Him, but never made Him rich. Therefore, nothing could be further from the truth, than the idea that wealth is a sign of God's favor.

Granted many wealthy people have attained holiness, but it is more because of their humility than anything else. Humility is an awareness of your relationship with Divine Power. Humility is the virtue that enables a person to minimize self-interest, transcend egotism, and show forth amazing courage.

Loving sacrifices bring about rewards that are among the richest blessings known to man. The happiness that God promises, in fact, the whole purpose of His coming among us as a man, was to lead us out of this valley of tears to a new level of existence; namely, heaven.

"What no eye has seen, what no ear heard, and what no human mind has conceived-this is what God is preparing for those who love Him." (1 Cor 2:9). St. Catherine of Sienna was right in saying, "All the way to heaven is heaven", but her deep joy was based on her surrender to the will of God.

Jesus promised eternal life to those who follow the Gospel of Love. The first sign of love is service, which calls for sacrifice, and often leads to suffering. The Lord's passion and death gives us the ultimate example of true love.

Therefore, the most beloved children of God are those who give up their lives for others; like long suffering mothers, and hard-working fathers who make so many sacrifices for their families. This includes all those who suffer deprivation and loss because of their faithfulness to Jesus.

Most people are of good will, but they don't fully understand the meaning of humility. Truly humble people do not allow others to walk all over them. The truly humble can be surprisingly bold in standing up to bullies. Instead of cowering in fear, they rely on the strength of Christ, and challenge the would-be tyrant.

Jesus came back from the dead. His glorified body passed through locked doors. His message held the Apostles spellbound. Then something happened to each of them. They were released from the prison of self-doubt, with all its fears and disappointments. They became new creations.

They became courageous, ready to face the outside world of hostile forces that had terrified them only minutes before. The Holy Spirit came upon them, and transformed them into saints.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy.