

Sermon 3rd Sunday Lent

Why would you report a disaster like the falling of the Tower of Siloam unless there was some form of gratification, or justification in it. Jesus obviously speaks to people familiar with this event. People who by their discussion of this scandal are distancing themselves from the event.

Oh is it not terrible what happened over there

Oh is it not awful what happened to those people

Do you think that those who died were any worse than any other people?

Do you think that they are so different from you?

So why do you focus upon the disaster

Why do you speak of the tragedy?

Is there a certain comfort

An element of escape from your challenge

In looking to the troubles of others

Feeling righteous, to say how sad it is

Feeling safe, to have nothing to do with it

Because the struggle is difficult

Because I personally fail on a regular basis

Because you have not created a perfect world

How easy then to cite examples such as the Ukraine

To dwell only in the misery of Palestine

To say that it is an evil world

And withdraw into a small world of self-satisfaction.

Faith can be very uncomfortable

A world condemned by circumstance

A world in which I can do nothing

Can be the justification for actually doing nothing

As Christians we do not believe in such a world.

We come seeking the fruit of life
Very often we find none
As a young man I wanted to be a Rock and Roll star
It did not happen
Is that the reason for giving up on life.

We come seeking fruit
Very often we find none
My father died at the age of sixty eight
He did not share his Irish wit with many of his grandchildren
Is that the reason for giving up on life.

We come seeking fruit
Very often we find none
I rejoiced when the Berlin wall came down, and the Arab spring seemed to welcome a new age of
peace and prosperity
But Putin has replaced Stalin, and chaos replaced the repression in the Middle East.
Is that the reason for giving up on life.

If you are a Christian the answer is I will not give up on life
You get up and you go again
If you are a person of faith the answer is I will not give up on hope
You dig around again even if it feels hopeless
If you are a disciple of Christ
The suffering of others, or even your own suffering
Can never be the excuse for surrender
We defy the moaning world
Our acts are justified by faith not results
We participate as a result of love
Whatever they say we will ever seek the good.

If there is one thing we got right
It was the day we began to fight
Keep your Eyes on the Prize

HOLD ON