

May 28, 2017

“Out of Sight: Now You See Him... Now You Don’t!”

First Reading ~ Acts 1:6-14

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?” Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know the times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken out of sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans – why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you- this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James ben-Alphaeus; Simon, a member of the Zealot sect; and Judah ben-Jacob. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Second Reading

~ from John O’Donohue in Eternal Echoes: Exploring Our Yearning to Belong

Prayer is the liberation of God from our images of God. It is the purest contact with the wildness of the Divine Imagination. Real prayer has a vigilance that is constantly watching and deconstructing the human tendency toward idolatry. Despite our best sincerity, we still long to control and domesticate the Divine. Meister Eckhart says that the closer we come to God, the more it ceases to be God. In other words, God is only our name for it.

It is ironic that every human needs some God on the inner altar of the heart... the deity could also be money, power, greed, addiction, or status. The critical vigilance of real prayer endeavors to insure it is the flame of the living God that burns on the altar of our hearts. Such prayer longs for the real warmth of divine belonging. Real prayer helps us to live in the beauty of truth. It is a visitation from outside the frontier of our own limitations.

Third Reading ~ from Fr. Richard Rohr in Everything Belongs

All spiritual disciplines have one purpose: to get rid of illusions so we can be present. These disciplines exist so that we can see what is, see who we are, and see what is happening. On the contrary, our mass cultural trance is like scales over our eyes. We see only with the material eye.

If we are to believe Jesus, nothing is more dangerous than people who presume they already see. *God can most easily be lost by being thought found.*