

July 22, 2018

Unsettled: The World

First Reading ~ *Ecclesiastes: 8:9-17*

I reflected on all this [right, wrong; life, death]; I took into account everything that is done under the sun, where people still tyrannize others and treat them unjustly. For example, I see the corrupt carried in for the burial service, and Temple authorities honoring them; they are being praised in the very city they corrupted.

Here is another frustration: the sentence for a crime is not carried out quickly, which emboldens others to commit new crimes. Some people can commit a hundred new crimes while their first sentence is being appealed- and delayed! I know what they say, that it will go well for those who revere God when they stand in God's presence, and that it will not go well for the corrupt, and their days won't be as long as their shadow, for they don't revere God. Even so, this frustration occurs regularly on earth- that the just are treated as if they were corrupt, and the corrupt are treated as if they were just. It makes no sense.

So that's why it's advisable to enjoy life. The best that people can do here on earth is to eat, drink, and be merry. These joys will help us do the hard work God gives us here on earth. Then we'll have joy along with our toil.

I tried to understand all that happens here on earth. I saw how busy people are, working day and night and hardly ever sleeping. I also saw all that God has done. Nobody can understand what God does here on Earth. No matter how hard they try to find meaning for it all, they never do. Even if wise people say they understand, they cannot, for no one can really understand.

Second Reading ~ from Richard Templar in the rules of Life: A Personal Code for Living a Better Happier Life

Look, we are tiny complex humans in a huge complex world (and even bigger universe). It's all so unimaginably, fantastically strange that, believe me, we'll never be able to understand everything. And that applies at all levels and in all areas of life. Once you grasp this

rule, you'll sleep easier at night. There are likely to be a few things going on around you right now, as there always will be, that will remain just slightly outside of your comprehension. People will behave oddly and you won't understand why. Things will go unexpectedly wrong—or right—and it won't make sense. Spend all your time desperately trying to work it all out and you'll drive yourself crazy. Much better to just accept that there is always stuff that we won't understand and let it go at that.