

Roads of Sorrow and The Light of Hope

I. PSALM 30:2-28 - [...a PSALM for David, in an ecstasy.]

² In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped,
let me never be confounded:
deliver me in Thy justice.

³ Bow down Thy ear [un]to me:

make haste to deliver me.

Be Thou unto me... [my] GOD,
a Protector, and a House of Refuge, to save me.

⁴ For Thou art my Strength and my Refuge;

...for Thy Name's sake thou wilt lead me...

⁵ Thou wilt bring me out of this snare...
for Thou art my Protector.

⁶ Into Thy hands I commend my spirit:

Thou hast redeemed me, O... GOD of Truth...

⁸ I will be glad and rejoice in Thy mercy.

For thou best regarded my humility,
Thou hast saved my soul out of distresses.

¹⁷ Make Thy face to shine upon thy servant;
save me in Thy mercy.

¹⁸ Let me not be confounded, O Lord,
for I have called upon Thee. ¹

¹ DRA, PSALM 30. Equivalent to PSALM 31 in The NAB and The KJV.

II. Roads of Sorrow & Light of Hope

In hospital ministry, one regularly travels and journeys with many people walking roads of intense sorrow who are desperately looking for The Light of Hope. I find this is particularly heavy in places like the ICU. But it seems to me, that when people walk such roads with others in a living Faith, that road is not as dark as it often appears from a distance.

I recall one mother of a trauma patient in ICU. When I first met the family, the patient's mother said to me, "Now I know how Mary felt at The Cross. My heart has been pierced!" I visited with and prayed with this family several times. After a long struggle, this particular patient died of his injuries.

Another family of a middle aged man - unresponsive with an unrecoverable catastrophic head injury – struggled to come to terms with the situation. Another parent saying goodbye to a beloved child, who shared her Faith that her son would soon be with The Lord. She blessed me in His Name. And then she cried.

Another - a husband standing alone for hours at his wife's bedside, a petite lady unresponsive on a ventilator for a week. He was struggling with the choices of putting her through another likely futile surgery or letting her go after 50 years of marriage, focusing on making her comfortable instead. After I listened, he asked me to say a prayer for his beloved.

III. Finding The Light of Hope in The Darkness

Though the suffering and deaths of loved ones are grievous, Faith lived out in the company of others often makes such travels easier to bare. Perhaps it is The Light of GOD's Face that shines onto such roads of sorrow, lighting the way and making them less fearful places.

Maybe it is knowing that GOD knows the road ahead, even though we don't. And it seems to me, that the closer we live to Him and in communion with others, the more the darkness is dispelled by The Light of His Presence. That Light of His face is The Source of Hope of His Love and Eternity available to us all whenever we must walk paths of darkness.

This is The Light of GOD that King David speaks of in ecstasy, Who is his strength, comfort, redemption and hope. This is The Light Whom The Apostle John beheld face to face in The Flesh. This is The same Divine Light that people in the darkest of places of their lives naturally hunger for and seek out. Blessed are we, GOD's servants, when we are called to help others see His Light:

I JOHN 1:5-7

⁵ And this is The Declaration Which we have heard from Him, and declare unto you: That GOD is Light, and in Him there is no darkness.

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not The Truth.

⁷ But if we walk in The Light, as He also is in The Light, we have fellowship one with another, and The Blood of JESUS CHRIST His Son cleanseth us from all sin. ²

² DRA, I JOHN 1:5-7.

IV. LET US PRAY

Let us come before The LORD together
Each according to our own Tradition

[silence]

The LORD be with you!
And also with you!

O GOD, as we go through our duties
in serving the hurting and the grieving today,
let us consider how we may reflect
The Light of Your face
upon the paths of those in need
that so many travel in this place.
Use us in Your Holy Name
To reflect The Light of Your Presence.
For down the roads of sorrow
You are our Light and our Hope.

AMEN.

Let us go forth to love and serve The LORD!
Thanks be to GOD!

V. References

“Douay-Rheims American [1899]” Catholic Bible. Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.