

*"Come to Me, all who are weary  
and heavy-laden, and I will give  
you rest. Take My yoke upon you  
and learn from Me, for I am meek  
and humble in heart, and you will  
find rest for your souls."*

*Matthew 11:28-29*

*#dailyverse*

## **14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME** **YEAR A – July 9, 2017**

The prophet Zechariah speaks to us on behalf of God in the first reading today. He is one of the 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament. If you google the phrase “minor prophets” you can learn all their names and why they are now called Minor Prophets. Zechariah prophesied that a time of peace would come to his people. They had just been slaves in Babylon. He probably did not realize that his words would be applied to a baby born in Bethlehem hundreds of years later. That baby’s name is Jesus and he became the Prince of Peace for all people, Jew and Gentle alike. The kind of peace he brought to us is the kind the world cannot give. (John 14:27) It’s not the peace that many of the Jews expected then.

Unlike worldly kingdoms, the kingdom of Jesus is not around us, it is within us. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds us, “...it is not the deeds of the body that impress God, but the deeds of the spirit”. The “deeds of the body” represent our selfish sinfulness. The “deeds of the spirit” represent our selfless love for God and for others.

In the Gospel Jesus says, “Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart”. Earthly kings and world leaders do not ordinarily talk like that. They do not behave like that either. For some of them, the end justifies the means, even when the means are sinful. It is those sinful means that are the “deeds of the body”. Lording it over others (Matthew 20:25) would be a good example – it’s not the only one.

It’s not our job to judge others and account for them before God. But it is our job to give an account of ourselves to God when we die (Matthew 25:35-40). Jesus says, “Learn from me...”. He never pretended to be something or someone he was not. We need to stop pretending. We only fool ourselves and we can’t do that forever. There is still time to change.

When you get what you want in your struggle for SELF,  
and the world makes you champ for a day,  
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
and see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother  
Or the church whose judgment you must pass.  
The one whose verdict counts most in your life,  
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may think you a straight-shooting champ,  
and call you a wonderful guy.  
But the one in the glass says you're only a bum,  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,  
for he's with you clear to the end.  
And you pass your most difficult, dangerous test,  
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of life,  
and get pats on your back as you pass.  
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears,  
If you cheat the Man in the Glass.

Before you go to sleep tonight, look in the “Glass”. Can you see Jesus?