

“For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:37-39)

We live in a time of Genesis 3. “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” All means all. Sometimes I think we bounced between Genesis 3 and Romans 7. “I do not what I ought, but the very thing I hate.” When we look at others, for the most part, we agree with the law. But that’s the problem. We agree and turn around and then disagree with our actions. The one person you have the most difficult time being honest with is yourself. I know. I have the same problem.

The ribald nature of humanity goes through its cycles, but it revolves around trying to figure our way around simply doing what is right. People are eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage. To be sure, people have always done this, but I think you know what I mean when I say that our current times are very lax.

I met with my former neighbor at another neighbor’s funeral. He asked how many funerals I had done. I told him. Then he asked how many marriages I had done. A small number, about half, by comparison. “Why?,” he asked. They’re not getting married anymore. “Ah, right,” was the answer. In fact they are, but I digress. We live in an age that seems heightened in self-indulgence. Live for today and do not worry about tomorrow.

If by that we mean truly living in today, knowing that it has enough of its own worries, fine. But, if we mean do not care at all about tomorrow, that is a problem. We all have that problem. Either we go to the place of obsessing over past or future, or else we give it no thought whatsoever. But our Lord has come telling us that we have been given the promise of a new life through the flood of our own baptism. We are not destroyed in this process – for sin has already done its destruction. We are brought into a new life. The new life is the very thing which has created the longing in every human heart.

In this Lent journey, we are reminded once again to put on the new self and see the world through different eyes. Yes, there’s plenty of hedonism in our age. Perhaps more subdued in years past, it has always been around. But what about you? The Lord is calling us into what for us is a wilderness of living a new life. We are called to put on Christ, carry the burden, the cross, which is ours and walk in a land that is not, at first, familiar. The Lord is making all things new. The Good news is that we will be able to make the journey, because Christ is leading the way. Familiarity does come as one make the journey with the Lord.

Sometimes the Lord will ask us to do things that, at first, seem really crazy. Noah was asked to build an ark. The people laughed. Noah believed the Lord and not the people around him. Will you do the same with the Lord? All that is old, of this age, acceptable in the sight of those who do not fear the Lord, will be swept away. But we are not left empty-handed. We have hope and this hope will not disappoint us, for because was raised from the dead, we too will have new lives.

Do take time today, this week, and during this time set aside for introspection and meditate on all that this means. We can live lives that our faithful even when those around us are living for food, drink, and pleasure. To be sure, we can have these things, only not for themselves, but knowing that these are gifts from God, to be used as He has given them to be used, and in a way that is pleasing to Him.