

20240212 Lecturer Reflection

Calm like Christ

We have all heard the phrase, “What would Jesus do?” There are bracelets, logos, and a variety of swag materials to remind us to consider what Jesus would do if he was in our current situation, whatever that may be at the time. Instead of asking, “what would Jesus do,” maybe we should take a step back and ask, “How did we get here?”

Many situations are out of our control, and we are just trying to get through whatever adversity has presented itself and needs our attention. Some of our greatest adversities are never seen by anyone except us. In the eyes of others, the troubles we face are not worth any concern or fears. They are real to us. What is our course of action? How do we respond?

If we continue to ask, “What would Jesus do?” we have plenty of examples in the bible to see exactly what He did. Jesus calms the storm. Mark 4:39 He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Hush, Be still!” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. In Matthew 26:51-52, And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Jesus did not raise his voice and did not get angry. He spoke sternly and commanded others to listen.

We face adversity, trials, and tribulations frequently. Do they control us, or do we control the situation and act accordingly? Shouldn't we all answer that we stay calm? Doesn't it test our faith that we believe God is in control? If we believe, if we truly believe God is in control, why do we ever feel anything but calm?

We recently witnessed the Super Bowl and some calm and cool place kickers. The Kansas City Chiefs Kicker, Harrison Butker, is a brother knight and was outstanding. His life is lived for his faith, family, and then football, not those in reverse order. He frequently serves the Traditional Latin mass at his home parish. Beyond the gridiron, he is living his faith proving he is a strong follower of Christ who happens to play a game. Our local favorite 49'ers Quarterback, Brock Purdy said before the game, “Where God needs me to be, I am good with the outcome of the game.” He wasn't heavily recruited out of high school and became a starter his freshman year at Iowa State leading them to 4 straight bowl games. He was “Mr. Irrelevant” and became the first to throw a touchdown pass in a regular season game and now he can add playoffs. Most of us will never perform on a stage of this magnitude, but in the eyes of God, we are on stage rehearsing for eternity. His eyes, His stage, His will, not our will, but His will be done.

God sent his Son to die for our sins. Jesus became flesh and showed us how we are to live our lives. So, what is keeping us from living like Jesus? It is not a matter of can we. It comes down to will we. Will we, forgive those who do us wrong? Will we, help those in need? Will we, find a way to do more? Will we, strive to be more Christ-like? Will we, strengthen our faith and display the confidence to trust that God is in control. Will we, stay calm in storm and will we calm the storm. Jesus did and knowing He is with us, we can too.