

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week do something to deepen your Catholic faith. Do something that positively impacts your relationship with Jesus Christ. You decide. Watch a biblical epic on television. Enter into the story of this Jesus. Let the story take hold of you even if for just a short time. There are some real good versions from Franco Zeffirelli's Jesus of Nazareth to Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ. If you have a favorite, watch it. If you don't, watch the Passion of the Christ. It will reach into your soul. You will feel things you have not felt in a long time. It will remind you of what divine love looks like. And the depth to which the Father will go to bring us back from our sins.

My friends, this life isn't everything. It is just this life. There is another life that will last forever and that life is very much involved with and revolves around our relationship with the living God. But the living God will never force us to respond to his love. The living God will forgive us our trespasses. All of them. But will never force us to receive this forgiveness. And the living God has invited us to live with him in his kingdom forever but it is only an invitation. It must be accepted. We must choose to go there. Want to be there. Live the way of life that is there.

What we often fail to grasp is this simple truth. In the kingdom of God there is no other event for us to embrace. There is nothing else that will be going on. There is only kingdom life with God at its center. A good God. A loving God. A forgiving God. A God who loves. But a God who will never force us to be with him. And if we are not with him, we will hate where we are. We will hate who we are. We will hate who we are with. We will burn with unquenched emotions—because that is what we chose. I know. It sounds like some fairy tale to scare us into scurrying to God in our terror. I mean, this is the twenty-first century, for crying out loud. We are sophisticated people. Doesn't God get it? We can do whatever the hell we want. Whatever the hell? Ah. That's the question for this Holy Week.