

The World Turned Upside Down

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP - RADICAL PERSECUTION

1 Thessalonians 1-2 | 27 July 2016

PASSAGES OF PARTICULAR NOTE

Notes

1. Acts 17:6-7 - The apostles "turned the world upside down" by "saying that there is another king, Jesus."

1.1. Are we proclaiming Christ the King? Is the way we are living our lives challenging ourselves and others to conversion?

2. 1 Thess 1:6 - "And you became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, for you received the word in **much affliction**, with **joy** inspired by the Holy Spirit; so that you became **an example to all believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia."

2.1. Do we *consciously imitate* holy people, and in doing so imitate Jesus? Do we foster relationships with the saints who can both be an example for us and practically help us by their intercession before the throne of God?

2.2. Do we endure suffering with joy?

2.2.1. "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love" (Blessed Theresa of Calcutta)

2.3. Is my life the kind of life that is an *example* to other Christians? When my family and when other men see me, are they inspired to virtue or to vice?

For Prayer

3. 1 Thess 2:7 - "But we were **gentle** among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

3.1. As we give *bold* and *courageous* witness to the faith, do we also show forth the *gentle tenderness* of God? As fathers, are we both firm and tender with our families?

3.1.1. "In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. **We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!**" (Pope Francis, *Homily for the Solemnity of St. Joseph on which his Petrine Ministry was Inaugurated*, 19 March 2013)