

A Post from Fr. Niblick

March 30, 2020

Good teachers are the ones who make their students think and do their homework. I readily tell our young people that the biggest regrets of my youth involve cheating in school. I hated to read the novels, so I got Cliff's Notes and thought that by just knowing how a book ended I understood the book.

Just knowing how a book, assigned by a teacher, ends is not learning, because the meaning is in the details, so too, in the teachings of Christ, the meaning is in the details.

Jesus had to be a great teacher because the notes of his students comprise at least 4 volumes that we call, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, plus Paul and Peter and a whole host of thinkers, men and women, down through the ages and, even today, heroic students of Christ struggle against the formidable opposition by institutional religion to their continued learning from Christ.

Conventional religion consistently tries to avoid the hard work of studying the "notes" and tries to turn the teaching of Christ into moralism's for personal behavior because it is easy.

Jesus in the Gospels always puts his teaching in the context of a whole picture called the Kingdom of God which is like many things but definitely not our ideas of heaven as a place running a parallel existence to earth.

Over the years conventional Christian religions, maybe, especially Catholicism with our school systems and catechisms, have operated as if they knew everything they needed to know about the teachings of Christ, as if Christ was a figure in history like Louis XVI or Napoleon or Dante or Michelangelo.

Christ is a Real Presence in and through and with everything, EVERYTHING, else.

The Gospels properly understood are questions to every answer not answers to every question. They are perennial not terminal. They are living texts not dead ones