RADIO MEDITATION
Rochester - 1962
9 of Series

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

Beautiful Saviour 657

IN NOMINE JESU

St. Matthew 27: 13,14 The said Pilate unto Him, Hearest Thou not how many things they witness against Thee? And He answered Him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly.

GOD'S MILLS GRIND SLOWLY

On all sides our Savior is still being attacked today. The modernist denies His deity. The Communist attacks His sacred ordinances. The rationalist ridicules His atonement. The atheist denies His very existence. And in the face of it all we are often inclined to repeat Pilate's question to Jesus: Hearest Thou not how many things they witness against Thee? Why don't and He You answer with the rumbling thunders of wrath and destruction? The answer, of course, lies in ~~the fact that~~ God's infinite love for us. God's mills grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding fine. Of this we can be sure - An inevitable reckoning does await all who ~~persist~~ reject His love and grace and forgiveness.

The poem story of The Grand Inquisitor presents ~~Christ~~ in an impressive manner. In a time of fearful persecution Christ's people are suffering terribly, when suddenly Christ appears among them. Once more He comforts them with His visible presence, heals their sick, gives sight to the blind, even brings a dead girl back to life. But the Grand Inquisitor is watching and scowling. He bellows an order to the guard, Arrest that Man! That night he visits Christ in His prison cell. Heartlessly he upbraids Christ for reappearing, Violently He denounces Him. At last his anger explodes in a vehement threat and sentence of death. Yet all the while Christ has not spoken one word. Now He steps slowly to the side of the violent Inquisitor...and kisses him. The Inquisitor begins to tremble. His eyes stare madly at Christ as he throws open the prison door and screams: Go and come no more. Come not at all, never, never. and Christ goes out into the darkness of night.

It's only a story, but that's just like Christ all right. And the Inquisitor is so much like humanity. For nineteen hundred years Christ's invitation has gone out. Come unto Me - no matter who your are, no matter what you've done - and I will give you rest - In Me you'll find security and peace forevermore. If only more had listened! Someday our world will recognize the blunder of the ages: its failure to take Christ seriously.... Blessed are they that put their trust in Him. Amen.

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Take My Life & Let It Be #400

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

St. Matthew 27: 17 Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you, Barabbas or Jesus, which is called Christ?

THE PERPETUAL ALTERNATIVE

We of the 20th Century are ultimately faced with the same alternative with which the people of Christ's day were faced: Whom will ye that I release unto you, Barabbas or Jesus, which is called Christ? Barabbas represents man on his own, going his own way, apart from God, eager to satisfy his selfish passions and desires. Barabbas was a man who was all out for hims elf - who cared only for himself, insurrectionist, murderer, rebel, & street fighter. The sins of our generation are essentially the same: selfishness, spiritual indifference, greed and envy, hatred and lust. Man is still the same. Just look at the things ~~we~~ human~~s~~ beings do: They repudiate their Creator; they abuse their bodies and the world they live in; they mistreat one another; they lie to one another; they steal from one another; they look down on one another; they even kill one another - by the thousands. The same cry goes up ever and again: Give us Barabbas; give us Barabbas! No, the world has not changed.

God has not changed either. God's anger over sin is fearful. And His justice is absolute. But His love is beyond understanding, and His infinite wisdom found a way to reconcile His Justice with His love. God Himself came down the stairway of heaven with His Son in His arms. From His richly abundant treasures God gave His best; He gave Himself. He went right to the ~~souls~~ source of man's trouble. He picked up sin in all its horror, all of it; and took it up to Calvary, all of it; and died for it, all of it.

Let us ask God for the deeper vision, which makes us see in the rejected Christ the Holy One of God, suffering for His unholy children! As we are daily confronted with the alternative, Jesus or Barabbas, may we, God helping us, become increasingly more courageous in our rejection of sin, but stronger in our devotion to Him who gave His life for us - ~~that we might live forever~~ with Him.

Amen.