

Easter Saturday 11/4/26

When Peter and John stand before the rulers, elders and scribes of their faith tradition, they stand before them as transformed men: no longer hiding in fear, no longer willing to simply do what they are told by the religious authorities of the day, true now to their own lived experience of faith.

There are echoes here of the clash in John's Gospel between the man born blind and the Pharisees. The man born blind, whose eyes were opened by Jesus, simply reports what has happened to him. The Pharisees have a worldview which doesn't allow this cure to happen to a sinful man on the Sabbath and cannot accept the truth of what they are hearing. They are living a preconceived truth, one defined by dogma and prejudice and in their turn by fear of authority, not least of the prevailing authority of Rome and its soldiers.

They've learnt to live in a compromised way, given a semblance of power which they can only maintain by remaining deaf or being blind to the ultimate power of God, to the love of God which passes all understanding, or rather all understanding not motivated by love. This clash of worldviews is perennial, as present now as ever, a choice between living truly in the power of the spirit or living a lie in the power of the devil, the prince of lies. We have it now on the world stage - not only in the sense of who to believe but who to follow - the one, surely, acutely aware of their own imperfections but transformed by the power of love, liberated by a force not of their own doing, who speaks truth - a resurrected life lived in the shadow of the cross without fear.

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