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# MDP of God

I was at a conference last week and one of the speakers, Kimberly Hahn, ---Kimberly tells this story about their family

They were in the car, with her husband driving- and two of her sons in the back seat- an eight year old and a four year old

 And she was quizzing the eight year old about his religion lesson

So she asked, “Is Jesus Christ truly God?” And the eight year old said with great conviction- “*Yes He is”*

And the four year old mimicked his older brother and also said with great conviction- “Yes He is”

And the mother asked, “Is Jesus Christ truly man?”- And the eight year old said, “Yes He is!” – And again the four year old mimicked him and said with conviction, “Yes He is”

And the mother asked, “Is God ***eternal***?”- And the eight year old said with real conviction, “Yes He is”

 But the four year old with great certainty said, “*No He’s not*!”

Everyone got quiet and looked at the four year old- and the eight year old said to his brother, “*Yes He is David*”- And the four year old again said with great certainty, “**No He’s not”**

So the mother said, “David you seem pretty convinced about that, why do you think that?”

And the four year old said, “Mom, I’ve seen a turtle- and God is not a turtle”

He certainly had a point there

My friends, our readings today all call us to look at our lives- and look at the fact that our lives here are only temporary

 That we’re only passing through

 *And that our gaze should be on the life that will last for all eternity*

Now certainly *only God* is eternal

 God has always been- and God will always be

 Which is a hard concept to get our minds around

Now we can be considered eternal in that we’ve always been in the mind of God- but we came into existence at a point in time

But as our readings today pointed out- we will live forever*-* ***somewhere***

Jesus implies that we need to store up treasure in heaven rather than storing up treasure on earth (Lk 12: 13-21)

St Paul in our 2nd reading tells us today, “Seek what is above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above and not of what is on earth” (Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11)

And of course our 1st reading pointed out that if all we had to look forward to was the things of this world- *then all would be vanity-* asking basically, “what’s the point of it all?”

Everything you earn – everything that’s yours- at the end of life you have to leave to someone who didn’t earn it

The point is that we’re only passing through- our hopes- our dreams – our desires- our plans *should not be earthly centered-* our focus should be on God – faith- **getting to heaven**- pleasing the Lord- storing up treasure for ourselves in heaven

Some people object that there are some who are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good

 And I have to say that *that is not possible*

If we are heavenly minded – we’re going to do our best here so that we glorify God- be the best family member we can be to please the Lord- be the best employee to please the Lord- be the best boss to please the Lord- be the best neighbor to please the Lord

In fact it’s been said that those who are heavenly minded *will do the most earthly good* because we really have nothing to lose

That’s how the earliest Christians who were being persecuted saw it--after all, what were people going to do to them or to us for that matter- take our lives?- We have a better life waiting for us in heaven

Are they going to take our family – we’ll be reunited with them in heaven

Will they take our jobs- our money- our house –our car? – We can’t take those to heaven anyway

I heard one priest in a funeral homily point out that he’s never seen a U-Haul at the end of a funeral procession

Those who are truly heavenly minded will be the most earthly good- because we have nothing lasting here to really loose

As one wise man once put it- we’re only here to get out of here

Another said, “He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep- to gain what he cannot loose”

And so my question to you – and it’s a question I ask myself too—*where’s your focus?*

Are you focused on the life with God in heaven or are you focused on the things of this world?

If we’re focused on life with God in heaven – *then pleasing God* will be the primary desire of our lives

Being obedient to His commandments will be a top priority for us

*Jesus’ gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist will be a burning desire in our lives-* wanting to receive Him – wanting to be in His presence- telling others how important He is to us

On the other hand if we’re focused on the things below- focused on here and now- pleasing God won’t be a big priority for us- being obedient to His commandments won’t be a major concern- receiving Jesus in Holy Communion won’t be important to us- *wanting to serve God with our lives wouldn’t even be on the radar screen*

Just an example from my own life- and don’t get me wrong I’m not in any way holding myself up as an example – because I personally have a long way to go in getting my attention off the things of this world and focusing on pleasing God

But when I was in college I was working a summer job – and when I was there for a couple of weeks one of the guys I was working with came up to me and said, “Jay, I heard you’re going to be a priest”- and the tone in his voice and the look on his face didn’t give me the impression that he was impressed with that idea

And I said, “Yeah, I’m in the seminary and I’m seriously thinking of being a priest”

And He said, with the most incredulous look on his face, “**Why?”**

And with the look on his face *I was pretty sure that he wasn’t capable of understanding why*—but I said, “I love the Lord and I think the Lord might be calling me to serve Him in that way”

He said something along the lines of don’t you want a woman *– but he didn’t phrase it quite that nicely*

And I said, “well yeah I do, but I think God might be calling me to serve Him as a priest and God is the most important person in my life”

And the look on his face- I don’t know if you’d call it incredulity- or shock – or perplexed or maybe even disgusted

But I don’t think his look would have been any different than if that moment I had sprouted two more heads and had four eyes on each of them

*He looked at me like I was from another planet*

And that’s okay, *because I am*- **this isn’t my home** – I’m an alien here-this isn’t where I belong—*it’s not we’re any of us belong*

 Our true home is heaven – **that’s we’re our focus should be**

And my hope and prayer for my life is that I’ll lead others to see heaven as their true home- that their **eternal life** will be the primary focus of their lives

And that my friends needs to be the hope and prayer of all of us- that we’ll focus on the things above rather than the things below- *and that we’ll lead others to focus on eternal life with God* far more then they focus on this life that doesn’t last—Amen?