

Tuesday Reflection 01 February 2022

In Philippians 2:7 we read that Christ “emptied himself”; what does that mean for us, if we are called to imitate Him?

The medieval mystic Meister Eckhart wrote:

‘Just as a single barrel cannot hold
two different drinks at once, so too
the heart must empty itself of water
if we wish to fill our lives with wine.’

One of the things I think it means is that we are called to set aside our selfish desires (‘water’) and submit to God’s will (‘wine’).

I think, though, that there is a further aspect, and that is that we are called to set aside our preconceived notions of God which are the result of our cultural conditioning and upbringing and open ourselves to the voice of God within us.

The medieval Hindu mystic Lalla expressed it thus:

Learning the scriptures is easy;
but living them, that’s hard.
Far easier to read words on a page
than to seek the living heart of things.

By emptying ourselves, our lives become the blank page on which the word of God is written through our lives.

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