29A – 2026

"Do you go to Church every Sunday?"

A young lady was soaking up the sun's rays on a Florida beach when a little boy in his swimming trunks, carrying a towel, came up to her and asked her, *"Do you believe in God?"* She was surprised by the question, but she replied, *"Why, yes, I do."* Then he asked her: *"Do you go to Church every Sunday?"* Again, her answer was *"Yes!"* He then asked: *"Do you read your Bible and pray every day?"* Again, she said, *"Yes!"* By now her curiosity was very much aroused. The little lad sighed with relief and said, *"Will you hold my quarter while I go in swimming?"* –The little boy was straightforward and honest in his questions because he wanted to entrust to the lady something valuable. The Pharisees are not being honest. They have no intention of entrusting anything to Jesus. They are not looking for the answer to a question. They don't want someone to hold their quarter. They are looking for a way to get rid of this trouble-making Nazarene named Jesus. (*https://frtonyshomilies.com/*).

Spiritual Foundations:

The Great Wall of China was a gigantic structure, costing immense expenditure and labor, and when finished it seemed a superb way to gain security; but within a few years of its building, it was breached three times by the enemy. Only note — it was breached, not by **breaking down the wall but by bribing the gatekeepers**! — It was the **human element** that failed; what collapsed was **character,** proving insufficient to do the task necessary to make the great structure men had built really work. – A like fate awaits all those who, absorbed in political tasks, forget the spiritual foundation. (Quoted by Fr. Botelho). (*https://frtonyshomilies.com/*).

What We the People Demand

President James Garfield's words from 1877 still ring true. "Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ***ignorant, reckless, and corrupt***, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be ***intelligent, brave, and pure***, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature ... if the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces." [by Stephen M. Crotts, George L. Murphy and Stan Purdum from *Sermons for Sundays: After Pentecost (Last Third): Rendering to God*, CSS Publishing Company, Inc.]

Rockefeller started giving to God His due and lived:

That was a lesson learned by John D. Rockefeller, Sr. He drove himself hard to be a success. He became a millionaire by the age of twenty-three and by the age of fifty was the richest man on earth. Then at fifty-three years of age, Rockefeller developed a serious illness which caused the hair on his head, his eyebrows, and eyelashes to drop off. Even though he was the world's only billionaire and could have almost anything on earth he wanted, he could only digest milk and crackers. He became shrunken like a mummy. He could not sleep, would not smile, and nothing in life meant much to him at all. Doctors predicted that within a year he would be dead. — One night, however, as Rockefeller struggled to fall asleep, he came to grips with his life. He realized that he could take nothing with him into the next world. The next day he embarked on a new way of living. Rather than hoarding his money and possessions, he began to give them away to persons in need. Establishing the Rockefeller Foundation, he channeled his fortune into hospitals, research, and mission work. His contributions eventually led to the discovery of penicillin as well as cures for malaria, tuberculosis, and diphtheria. At age 53, Rockefeller was given a year to live. By learning to live by the principle of giving rather than getting, he altered his life so dramatically that he eventually lived to the ripe old age of **ninety-eight**. (Rev. Edward F. Markquart) (*https://frtonyshomilies.com/*).

Exodus 33:12-23

Thomas Edward Lawrence was educated at Oxford University and following graduation traveled to the Middle East. His love for archaeology landed him a position at the British Museum's excavation of the Hittite city of Carchemish. In 1914, when an Arab revolt began against Turkey, Lawrence's friendship with Amir Faisal brought him into the war for Arab independence. Lawrence aided in the military revolt and the legend of the heroic exploits of "Lawrence of Arabia" was born.

In January 1919, a peace conference was initiated in Paris. Lawrence served as counsel and translator for Faisal. When the Arab delegation first arrived in Paris, they were surprised by the modernity of the city. Living in harsh desert conditions, they were not used to new conveniences. One of the more fascinating sights they enjoyed was the marvel of indoor plumbing. They were amazed that with the turn of a spigot water would pour out. They had never dreamed of anything such as this in the desert. One enterprising member disassembled the plumbing under his sink at the Continental Hotel and placed it in his bags to take home. He wrongly believed that from the short piece of disconnected pipe water would continually flow.

Likewise, we need to stay connected to Jesus Christ in all that we do.

"I have held many things in my hand, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands that I still possess."(by Martin Luther)