

Men's Group Notes 2024-12-17

We continued talking about traditional prayer versus personal prayer. The focus on the "I" versus the "other" in our prayers. Our discussion went into the "I" prayer. Is the "I" prayer always self-centered? No, it is not always self-centered but can be an intercessory prayer as we pray for help from God in our lives. We may be doing an outreach to God to help us in our relationships with others.

The phrase "Your will be done" was discussed and on how do we feel about this phrase if His will is not what our will may be. Do we accept His will in our lives. How do we know we are following His will?

Rich brought up the topic of how in St. Paul's 1st Corinthians he referenced the Old Testament to predict the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. I will get some examples of that for our next meeting.

How does Oral tradition play a role in the writings of the New Testament. Bill explained how in the Old Testament, oral tradition played a central role in passing down stories, laws, teachings, and history before they were written down. Oral tradition in the Old Testament was maintained through a combination of memory, ritual, and communal practice. It was a dynamic process, heavily reliant on repetition, teaching, and active participation by the community. It was not just about passing down stories but also about embedding those stories and teachings into the daily lives of the people, ensuring their continuity for generations.

Michael told us about a close friend of his who is in hospice and is very near death but has a peaceful and amazing, wonderful outlook on life. Michael led us in a very personal prayer which touched all of us. We are all dying daily and are called to be witness to the world as Christians and to appreciate the little things in life that we should hold dearly.

This led us into a discussion "are you ready for death"? That is, are you prepared spiritually for death. Sometimes we are too busy in life and often need quiet time for our journey home. One of the best ways to obtain this quiet time is to be in the presence of the Eucharist especially in the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The next meeting will be on January 7, 2025!! We will talk about the various parts of the mass.

As a note from me, as Mike said, "our meeting tonight was excellent — we all went deep!".

I would like to thank all of you for attending our meetings. If you were only able to attend one meeting or all the meetings, you each contributed to making this men's spiritual group a success this year.

Wishing you all a Merry & Blessed Christmas!