

July 28, 2019 – 17 Sunday Ordinary Time

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Thor Ragnarok



I had planned on at some time watching *Avengers End Games* by now and making that movie the last of my movie reflections for the year. I just could not bring myself to spend three hours in a movie theatre knowing that at some point I would have to get up and used the restroom and with my luck I would probably miss an important part of the movie. I am therefore waiting for it to come out for home viewing. I will therefore reflect on another Marvel Movie **Thor Ragnarok**.

Synopsis: The movie begins with Thor battling a demon named Surtur because according to an ancient prophesy Surtur will bring about the destruction of Asgard. This destruction of Asgard is known to everyone as Ragnarok just like the end of earth is known as Armageddon. Thor ends up winning the battle and believes he has saved Asgard from eternal destruction.

Thor and Loki are reunited and sent by Dr. Strange to find Odin. Odin informs them that he is dying and his death will unleash their previously unknown of sister named Hela and Hela will have only one mission and that will be to enslave everyone. Hela returns and quickly takes over Asgard. She is slowed down by Heimdall who steals the sword that controls the space bridge.

Thor and Loki land on a planet named Sakaar and Thor is made a gladiator and must find for the ruler of Sakaar's amusement. The ruler of Sakaar is a unique individual known as the Grandmaster and his champion is none other than the Hulk. Hulk though is having a bit of an identity crisis and refuses to turn back to Bruce Banner or help Thor until he accidentally hears the voice of Natasha Romanoff on a recording.

Thor, Hulk, and Loki eventually return to Asgard and in order to defeat Hela, Thor resurrects the demon that he had killed at the beginning of the movie and allows the demon to destroy Asgard and Hela forever. Thor and what is left of the people of Asgard escape upon a spaceship to find a new home.

The first spiritual insight that I see in this movie is that as much as Thor tries to prevent the end of Asgard he cannot. In the same way as much as we might want to stop death we cannot. Henry Nouwen in his book *Reaching Out* wrote the following:

Although we keep telling each other and ourselves that we will not live forever and that we are going to die soon, our daily actions, thoughts and concerns keep revealing to us how hard it is to fully accept the reality of our own statements...

Indeed, it takes only a small disruption to lay our illusions of immortality bare and to reveal how much we have become victimized by our surrounding world suggesting to us that we are "in control."

What if Thor had been spending more time with Odin and Loki then out trying to stop the inevitable?

The second spiritual insight comes from Hulk's relationship with Thor. When Thor finds Hulk again, he expects to find the same old friend that he knew before. He has no idea what type of emotional turmoil Hulk/Bruce have been going through. In one sense he is quite literally not

himself. Eventually he finds himself and Thor is ready to forgive him. Sometimes friends hurt us not because they are mad at us but because they are hurting themselves. It is important to try to have compassion and understand where they are coming from so that it will be easier to offer forgiveness.

The third spiritual insight is that endings are just new beginnings. Even though Thor has lost everything there are still more movies to be made. In the same way we come across endings in our lives – some good and some bad – but they are not the ultimate end and we still have a chance to grow.

C.S. Lewis put it this way: “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners. - Soren Kierkegaard

Monday

Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tuesday

God's faithful servant has no desire for people to say or to give to him, or what he likes to hear or see, for his first and greatest aim is to hear what is most pleasing to God. - Saint Augustine

Wednesday

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." Calvin Coolidge

Thursday

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Friday

We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low. Desmond Tutu

Saturday

It is this spiritual freedom - which cannot be taken away - that makes life meaningful and purposeful. - Viktor E. Frankl



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**July 28 2019 // Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time //
Lectionary: 111 // Gospel LK 11:1-13**

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Spiritual Reflection:

It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Spiritual Questions

1. What strikes you about the Our Father?
2. Where do you find it easiest to pray?
3. What are you asking God for?
4. Do you trust that unanswered prayers are sometime the best?
5. How would you teach people to pray?



PRO-LIFE

Grant Success

Prayer for our Courts and Judges
Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of our nation. You alone rule the world with justice, yet you place in our hands the solemn duty of participating in the shaping of our government. I pray today for our President and Senators Who have the responsibility of placing judges on our courts. Please protect this process from all obstruction. Please send us men and women of wisdom, Who respect Your law of Life. Please send us judges with humility, Who seek Your truth and not their own opinions. Lord, give all of us the courage we need to do what is right and to serve you, the Judge of all, with fidelity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!



St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Jesus Christ, Lord of all things, You see our hearts; You know our desires. Possess all that we are, You alone. We are Your sheep; make us worthy to overcome the devil Amen.



Catholic Prayer

THE PRAYER, MAJESTIC QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Majestic Queen of Heaven and Mistress of the Angels, thou didst receive from God the power and commission to crush the head of Satan; wherefore we humbly beseech thee, send forth the legions of heaven, that, under thy command, they may seek out all evil spirits, engage them everywhere in battle, curb their insolence, and hurl them back into the pit of hell. "Who is like unto God?"

O good and tender Mother, thou shalt ever be our hope and the object of our love.

O Mother of God, send forth the holy Angels to defend me and drive far from me the cruel foe.

Holy Angels and Archangels, defend us and keep us.

Humor

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

