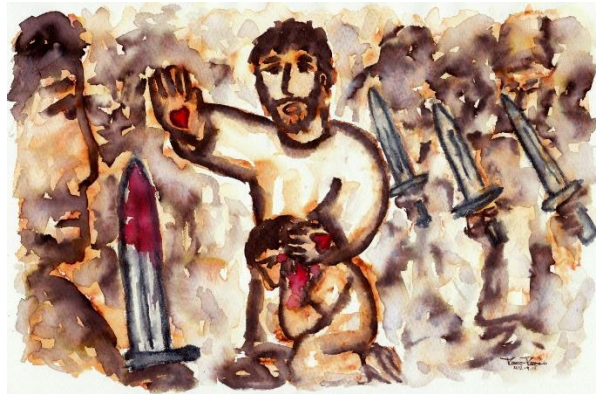


NO PROTECTION, PROGRAMS, OR PATRONAGE NEEDED



Enemies of the Cross

Ramone Romero

When Peter pulled out his sword, Jesus said, “Put it away!”

He didn’t need Peter’s protection.

And he doesn’t need ours.

If a stranger curses in Jesus’ name, let him curse.

Jesus can handle it.

If some celebrity belittles Jesus on his show, don’t waste time rebuking him on Facebook.

Jesus heard it all before.

And by the way, Jesus never sent us to make the world conform to “Christian Values”.

He sent us to proclaim the kingdom of God----and to live like sons and daughters of that kingdom.

If we want to be of use in God’s kingdom as the End draws near, here are four things we need to remember:

Jesus is already Lord of heaven and earth.

Jesus calls the shots.

Jesus measures our faith by our obedience.

Jesus holds us to account.

Jesus is already Lord of heaven and earth.

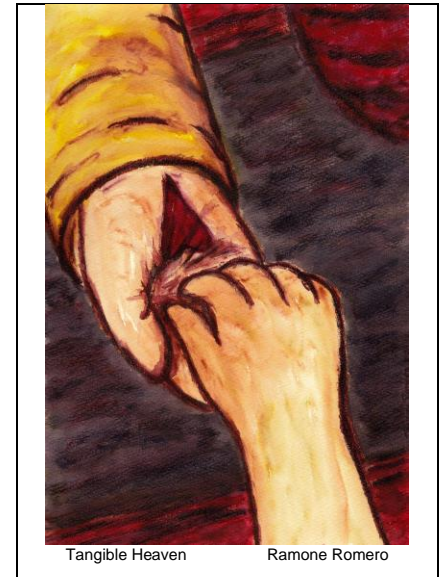
Since Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth, we take our orders directly from him.

He is the Vine; each of us is a branch.

We draw our strength, not from some leader or teacher or politician, not from the group we are part of, but from the Lord Jesus himself.

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15



There is unity in the Body of Christ only when we are all in true submission to our Master.

Jesus calls the shots.

All the crusades and programs and strategies that clutter Christendom are tainted by human ego, and produce tainted fruit.

As surely as the Spirit directed the believers in Antioch to *"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them,"* the Spirit of the Lord will direct us, if we abandon our "programs" and pay attention to his voice.

Jesus calls the shots. Those who pay attention to his voice are the ones who get the job done.

Jesus measures our faith by our obedience.

We are connected to Jesus by only one thing:

Faith.

Faith that believes in him all the way.

Faith that obeys him all the way.

Which means....

We pray for our persecutors.

We love our enemies.

We do good to those who hate us.

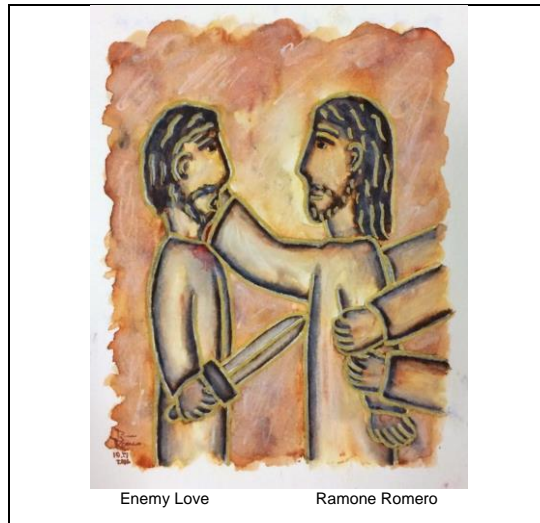
We speak the truth.

We share what we have with those who have less.

We pray without ceasing.

We treat all people with honor.

We live the mercy God has shown us.



Jesus holds us to account.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

But his master answered him, `You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents.

For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.”

Matthew25

Paul tells us that our work will be tested by fire. He predicts that much of what we have done will be consumed by those flames.

Jesus knows----and we know---whether we're doing things his way, or building with straw, hay or stubble.

Lord Jesus, turn on the light!

Show us whether we are serving your kingdom or our own!



Prayer: Jesus, Jesus Lord of Heaven and Earth help us to put our swords away, help us to stop listening to the voices and forces that call us to draw our swords out, telling us we need to intervene for you. Lord, we believe you, we know you are in control of all things. Help us to let go of our egos, our pride, our principals, and our opinions and just be obedient to your call. Without reservation, without fear or the need for control, help us to freely invest the precious talents you have given us... seeking to be merciful, loving, forgiving, prayerful, and trusting you even when faced with evil. Yes Lord ... turn on the light so we may obey you all the way. Maranatha Mirror

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