

February 21, 2021

Question for Reflection

The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Though Jesus is described at the Gospel’s opening as being “from Nazareth of Galilee” (Mark 1:9), at Jesus’ baptism it becomes clear whence he comes and to whom he belongs. Jesus is God’s beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of ancient covenants,
your steadfast love and faithfulness
are still new every morning.
I thank you that I can begin this day
in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy.
Help me to treat others—
family, friends,
coworkers, classmates,
and even strangers—
with love and mercy in our encounters today.
When I disappoint or am discordant,
help me to show love to others.
Open my eyes to the places, people, and circumstances
in which your kingdom has come near.
I pray in the name of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace,
as the day draws to a close
and the evening draws in around me,
I think of the creatures of the earth
that also seek rest in the hours of the night.
You love them even as you love me,
and your covenant faithfulness covers all of us.
So, with the birds of the air,
the beasts of the field,
and the tiny ones who burrow in the ground,
I offer you all thanks and praise:
for your unending goodness;
for the beauty of our home, the earth;
for your gift of life instead of a deserved destruction.
As your colorful bow now rests in the clouds,
so may we color the earth with the ways of peace
until all creation rests with you in completeness.
In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.