

A CONFESSION

When Conviction Becomes Frustration

I have a confession to make. Over the years, I have written some pretty critical things about the Church.

Some of that criticism came from a good place. I love Jesus. I love people who don't know Him. And when I see structures, practices, or assumptions that seem to make it harder for people to encounter Jesus, I get frustrated. Sometimes very frustrated.



I still believe we need to ask hard questions. I still believe there are assumptions worth challenging. I still believe the plentiful harvest Jesus described is right in front of us, and that following Him into it may require us to rethink some things we have done for a very long time. That hasn't changed.

But something in me is changing.

I'm beginning to recognize that sometimes my frustration moves faster than God's patience. Jesus sees His Church far more clearly than I ever will. He sees every flaw, every weakness, every place where we have become comfortable, distracted, or stuck. And He loves His Bride.

So do I.

I don't want my desire for something better to become a critical heart toward something Jesus loves deeply. I'm also realizing that I have spent too much energy trying to convince people that the Church needs to change when Jesus may simply be asking Lucia and me to live faithfully into what He has shown us.

We don't have to win an argument or convince everyone to see what we see. We can simply keep going into the harvest Jesus has placed in front of us. Keep sitting at tables. Keep listening. Keep forming friendships. Keep practicing holy curiosity. Keep experimenting. Keep paying attention to where Jesus is already at work. And let the fruit speak for itself.

That doesn't mean I will stop asking questions. Curiosity is too deeply wired into me for that. And it doesn't mean I will stop challenging assumptions when I believe they are keeping us from seeing what Jesus might be doing. But I want to do it differently, with greater humility, greater patience, and greater love for the Bride.

I'm learning that I don't need to criticize what others are building in order to faithfully build what Jesus has placed in front of me. There is freedom in that.

So I'm learning to criticize less, love more, stay curious, keep moving into the harvest, and trust Jesus with His Church.

After all, she's His Bride.

And I love her too.