

The Toilet Paper

Odd fact and obscure thought to read...*as you have time*

A Saint in Your Own Kitchen

Anatole France said that when he was a little boy he read the story of the life of St. Simeon Stylites, that strange gentlemen of ancient times who lived for thirty years on top of a sixty-foot pillar in Syria, and for some reason Anatole decided he was called to perform a similar act of saintly heroism. So he went into the kitchen, climbed up on the kitchen cabinet, and stayed there all morning. At lunchtime he got down.

His mother, who understood

what was happening, said: "Now, you mustn't feel bad about this. You have at least made the attempt, which is more than most people have ever done. But you must remember that it is almost impossible to be a saint in your own kitchen."

Of course, the problem is that's what we are called on to be—saints in our own kitchens, work place and everywhere we go. Though it does not involve putting ourselves on a pedestal.

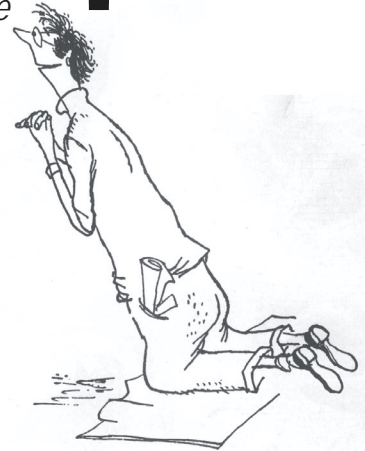


Rembrandt's Three Crosses

If you were to look at Rembrandt's painting of The Three Crosses, your attention would be drawn first to the center cross on which Jesus died. Then as you would look at the crowd gathered around the foot of that cross, you'd be impressed by the various facial expressions and actions of the people involved in the awful crime of crucifying the Son of God.

Finally, your eyes would drift to the edge of the painting and catch sight of another figure, almost hidden in the shadows.

Art critics say this is a representation of Rembrandt himself, for he recognized that by his sins he helped nail Jesus to the cross.



Humble Thoughts

When I saw Sadhu Sundar Singh in Europe, he had completed a world tour. People asked him, "Doesn't it do harm, your getting so much honor?" The Sadhu's answer was: "No. The donkey went into Jerusalem, and they put garments on the ground before him. He was not proud. He knew it was not done to honor him, but for Jesus, who was sitting on his back. When people honor me, I know it is not me, but the Lord, who does the job."—Corrie Ten Boom

"A good many are kept out of the service of Christ, deprived of the luxury of working for God, because they are trying to do some great thing. Let us be willing to do little things. And let us remember that nothing is small in which God is the source."—D. L. Moody

"We can do no great things; only small things with great love."—Mother Teresa

"If you are going to follow Jesus, you'd better look good on wood." —Father Daniel Berrigan

Blooming in a Lonely Desert

Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, believed that Christians should do all things wholeheartedly, not just those actions that can be seen.

He reasoned, "As our Father makes many a flower to bloom unseen in the lonely desert, [let us] do all that we can do, as under God's eye, though no other eye ever take note of it."

Did you hear about the minister who said he had a wonderful sermon on humility but was waiting for a large crowd before preaching it?