

Mid-week Meditation
September 30, 2020
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A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country.

The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began.

The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, *"Lord, I hate lard."*

Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, *"And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour"*.

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added,

"But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits.

So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing.

It will probably be even better than biscuits Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN

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This is the kind of wisdom I learned to appreciate when I served in rural Canada, both east and west. It is grounded in faith, and in the real world, and it provides perspective in challenging times.

That being said, I have never been comfortable with the expression *"We'll leave it up to the Lord"*

That is a cheap way of shirking your responsibilities – to God, to your family, to the Church, and to your fellow citizens.

Pandemics, poverty, war, oppression, injustice, climate change – we cannot just *"leave it up to the Lord"*.

We have responsibilities to God and each other – like praying, worshipping, helping those in need, effectively using the blessings we have received, voting, wearing masks, washing our hands...and other things you can add to the list.

God will be happy for the help.

Blessings,
Rev. Mark