

## Something Wicked This Way Comes

The glorious month of October has been ushered in by chilly breezes, multi-colored leaves, and the distant smell of apple orchards. God's creation at its finest. My mind was abuzz with these thoughts when my mother called me over to tell me something that jerked me out of my cheerful spirits. She told me that a posted video on the internet showed a teenager desecrating the Eucharist. This teenager was profaning our "cracker god" for the sake of show, sick humor, and shock value because he claims that Christianity stands in the way of his freedom. What a tragically incorrect belief. Obeying God's law does not restrain our freedom, it ensures our freedom by promoting and protecting our own human dignity and well-being.

Doing whatever one wants without reference to God has never made anybody happy. Instead of liberating the human person, this false freedom is self-destructive and causes the person to become a slave to his/her own personal desires, lusts, and passions. The story of the Garden of Eden shows that this misunderstanding of freedom is nothing new to our hedonistic culture but goes back to the very beginning. Before the fall, Adam and Eve existed in perfect harmony with each other and with God *because they lived in obedience* to God. But, this harmony and happiness was broken when they believed Satan's lie, that God was trying to suppress their freedom. By Satan's words, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden," our first parents chose to turn from freedom in God to slavery in Satan. They believed, as Satan wanted them to, that God was a liar and that His law restrained their freedom. Unfortunately, we who are their descendants still have that tendency. We must fight this tendency and realize that our true freedom lies in *abiding by* Truth rather than living in *opposition* to it. St Augustine expresses this thought profoundly when he said, "He who does good is free, though he be a slave. He who does evil is a slave, though he be a king."

The human person was not meant to please himself/herself indiscriminately. Christ said, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Christ did not say, "You will have no standards for behavior or objective truth to live by and this lawlessness will set you free." We are made in the image and likeness of God, which means that we must look to God to see where true freedom and happiness lie. God has the freedom to do whatever he chooses and yet He does not exercise His perfect freedom in an unbridled "do whatever I want because I am God" mode. God, who is a Trinity of persons, exercises freedom for the good *of* and out of love *for* the other. If freedom was about the power to do whatever one wanted or the power to exert one's desires over another's, than the Trinity would not be a communion of three persons but three divided and quarrelling gods.

How then, do we cast off the shackles of selfish ambition so as to truly be free? We look to Him who *used His freedom to give man freedom* from His sins, Jesus Christ. Where can we find Him? In the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source of freedom, the source of life. Jesus tells us, "Come to me all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Jesus does not burden us, He gives us an unsurpassing peace and freedom! Let us pray for that teenager who has been seduced by worldly "freedom" in desecrating the Eucharist, that this message will find Him soon.

+All For...+

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