

## Reflection – Solar Eclipse

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In reporting about last Monday, The New York Times reporter wrote:

“As the moon crossed over the sun... millions of people from Mazatlán to Maine *stopped* to gaze upward in a profound experience of awe. The solar eclipse tapped into a primal emotion. It evoked for many a mystical moment, as awareness of the celestial, encompasses the earth. It revealed the close dance between spirituality and science. “

Perhaps it **is** all about perspective and one’s attitude.

You’ve heard, “I’ll believe it when I see it.”

Yet another says, “I’ll see it when I believe it.”

Think of the resurrection appearances of Jesus. It’s also suggested that what you see depends on where you are standing. Your perspective. Think of the old story of 10 blind people describing an elephant. Also, what you see, depends on what you are looking for.

A key word from today’s readings is “look”. When the Sanhedrin “*looked*” on the face of Stephen it “seemed like that of an Angel”.

Jesus tells the crowds, “You are not *looking* for me because you have seen *signs* but because you have eaten your fill of the loaves.”

One writer\* suggests that “Each of us looks outward in many ways: with wide interest or with narrow bias, with a large heart open to goodness everywhere or with a narrow focus limited to personal concerns. . .with wonder that looks beneath the surface to seeing possibilities or with a dull shrug of the shoulders that hardly pays attention to miracles! Somehow or other, our present world and even more surely our future existence turn into what we see- at least so far as our own personal life is concerned.”

A saint like Stephen, was endowed with such a large heart that he overlooked trivia and reached out to the helpless. “Yet he was dragged before the court for acting against the customs of the people.” Important, intelligent people were willing to argue about customs when the poor were going hungry. They looked at a saint and *turned him into* a sinner.

When Jesus fed the hungry in the wilderness, they were only concerned about the food. They did not *ask* about the goodness and generosity of God who cares for them. . .They did not *stop to listen* to the words of Jesus, ponder them and ask for their implications in their daily lives. Even so, Jesus challenges them to go further-” Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life...This is the work of God, that

you *believe* in the one God sent.”

But believing is not a quick...decision we make once and for all. Belief is a *lifetime process of letting God work in us*. It calls for Intentionality. We may set our intention when coming to a time of prayer. However, to continue to develop a mindset of prayerfulness, we could practice *points* of intention throughout our day.

They are called “Sacred stops” that allow us space and intentionality in a distracted world. One group some years ago decided to make tiny “STOP” signs to put in different places as reminders to stop/ breathe/ and reset their focus or intention.

Jesus invited the people then and us now, to *see* much more. Through HIS eyes what might something be *turned into*? “We might look at strangers and see them as brothers and sisters. . .Every person and every event become a *sign*/which alerts us to a mystery beyond our imagination. . .To see as Jesus sees, is to look at something very earthly and to recognize a divine mystery.”

Again, from the Times: “For a nation pulled apart by every manner of division, the eclipse also offered a moment of unity, however brief. It was a reminder to everyone, on the same day and at the same time, that life can be magical. That being alive is a collective experience. That there is something astonishing about being part of the greater story of things.” Elizabeth Dias

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN.

\*Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P. Biblical Meditations for the Easter Season