



Grand Commandery of Minnesota

Knights Templar

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Coffee with Jesus

By Tom Hendrickson P.G.M.

My daily ritual of coffee with Jesus started when I was a young man in the Army. We were overseas, and I was sitting in the dirt on a slight rise when my First Sergeant approached me.

He said “Hendricks (he could never get my name right) hold out your cup”. I fished around and pulled out my canteen cup. He poured in some hot water from his. He pulled out a jar of instant coffee from his pants cargo pocket and threw in a few heaping spoonful’s.

He sat down next to me, as the sun began to appear. I started to talk. He said, “shut up, don’t say a *** word till I’m done with my coffee”. It was a pleasant experience, after my pounding heartbeat settled down, sitting in silence watching the sun come up and drinking coffee.

This went on for a few mornings until I had the courage to ask him what he was so deep in thought about each morning. He said that every morning he gets his mind in order and gets right with his God. “We don’t know what’s going to happen each day, we don’t even know if we will live long enough to see the sun set that very day. We are not promised a tomorrow. I highly suggest you think about that as well. Alright you finished. You locked and loaded? Let’s round up the others, and fall in.”

This morning ritual is something I have followed every day since that day. I felt I had to change the name of my time to the “two cup rule” to keep other people from freaking out, but the purpose was the same, to get right with God each day. I changed along the way from an Army Canteen Cup to a big ceramic coffee mug. I now drink a dark, very strong brewed coffee instead of instant coffee and I throw in four ice cubes to enable me to drink it right away (no cool down time) in order to keep my coffee time to fifteen or twenty minutes. My God has all the time in the universe for me, I know that, but me, I gotta get to work on time.

When I was working, this morning ritual was the perfect opportunity for me to have a few minutes of silence before anyone else in the house is awake. I could sort out life’s problems, that I was faced with, and to pray to my Lord and ask him what ever I needed and to give a heartfelt thanks for what I have been given. I asked for strength and guidance for whatever I might encounter that day, wisdom to solve the most complex human problems that would be thrown my way and the blessing to come home at the end of the day. Then I would lock and load for another day of service.

In retirement that fifteen to twenty minutes of daily devotions, has stretched out into at least an hour every day, as I have the blessing of time. Afterwards, I check in with my Army Buddy’s, at least those still alive, by texting them. We always start the text with “What Doin”? If the reply is, “Coffee with Jesus” we back off and give them some time to finish. These days, I only lock and load two slices of bread in the toaster, before I go off and start my day.

I have always lived with the premise that I am not promised a tomorrow. My maxim “To Live for Today” motivates me to try to appreciate each day a little more. Today, I hope for a tomorrow (Matthew 6:34), but as a Christian I know I am promised eternity as in John 3:16 and 1 John 2:25.

Our Christian faith is about our relationship with God thru Jesus Christ. Having a meaningful quiet time every day, without distractions which allows us to turn our attention towards God, allows us to deepen and grow our relationship but also ensures that we stay connected to him. It does not matter what spiritual discipline we exercise, prayer, meditation, reading the Bible, it is the act of spending time with him that is the most important.

Now that Summer is here, and I need to lose weight...again, I go walk with Jesus. This combined activity is a way to be physically and spiritually healthier. Walking in a meditative state, seeing and feeling the wind, feeling the sun on my face, makes it an energizing and refreshing experience.

The Modern-Day Knight Templars of the 21st Century are just like everyone else on the planet. We have jobs, families, and homes to take care of and Netflix to watch. Our lives have become more rushed, hectic and distracted. We need to defend our faith from the superfluities of life, and to strengthen our faith we just need to spend a little time with Jesus, which may include some nice strong coffee.

True Masonic Light is knowledge of the Devine

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