

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Revealing the Thoughts of Hearts Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas Monday, December 29, 2014 8:15 AM 1 Jn 2:3-11; **Lk 2:22-35** (St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr) (Choices that matter are for or against God and God's way.)

“So that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

I have always thought that was a very interesting phrase. Simeon is of course speaking in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is saying, **“This child is destined.”** Well, naturally his birth and conception, everything was all very remarkable, supernatural, miraculous. **“Destined for the fall and rise of many, and to be a sign that will be contradicted.”** Well, that's for sure; he was surely contradicted. Everything he did or said created opposition in somebody. **“So that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”** This is connecting the revelation of hearts to the contradiction. In other words, we can go along day by day with whatever, no problem; we don't make any real choices; we just go along; **we do our routine, until something happens that throws us out of our routine.** Now are we going to go along with that, or are we going to contradict it, whether it's good or bad? That's the point. **Jesus is the kind of sign that causes people to be shifted out of their routine. And this requires them to make a judgment.** This requires them to do something, to say something, to decide something. And this, whatever it is, **reveals the thoughts of their hearts, for better or for worse, pro or con.** That's the kind of sign Jesus was. He was in his very body, in his very person, in his very personality, **in his very presence, causing people to reveal the thoughts of their hearts, maybe even to themselves, but surely to the world.**

Now in a way that is the call to every believer; **every believer is to be a sort of sign that people notice and causes them to reveal the thoughts of their hearts, pro or con.** Oh, I like this; oh, I hate this. Oh this is something I want; this is something I hate. That's revealing the hearts. That's revealing the thoughts of the heart. **We can go through life**

without making any choices that are really very important. Oh, yes, I like spaghetti.

Well, that's not really a choice that matters. Do you like chocolate or vanilla ice cream? Who cares? That's nothing to do with anything. **Choices that matter are for or against God and God's way.** And if we are in darkness, we can't even see the difference. That's why Jesus is the light. As the light he is the sign that reveals the thoughts of the heart. We are all called on to be light. **We are baptized into Christ. We are to carry the light to the world revealing the thoughts of hearts,** in a way compelling people to decide pro or con, yes or no. Do you want to go with God, or don't you? What side are you really on? This is the work of discipleship.