

Today is September 11th. Seven years ago, I was working at Ford Motor outside of Detroit, in a four-story office building. Around 9 am, the guy who I shared a cubicle with's phone started ringing off the hook. His wife was watching TV, and a plane had just flown into one of the towers of the World Trade Center.

Soon, my desk was surrounded by people. You see, I'd been out of the Navy for just under 9 months. I was the expert. I was supposed to know what was going on.

In today's first reading, St. Paul says:

If anyone supposes he knows something,
he does not yet know as he ought to know.
But if one loves God, one is known by him.

We were sent home right around lunch time. All buildings over two-stories were evacuated. I got on the freeway, and it was packed with cars. But, the sky was empty. There were no large trucks. And everyone had one thing in mind: get home. Traffic moved like I'd never seen it. People cooperated and there were no accidents.

Today in the Office of Readings, we begin the Lamentations of Jeremiah:

How lonely she is now, the once crowded city!	Bitterly she weeps at night, tears upon her cheeks,
Widowed is she who was mistress over nations;	With not one to console her of all her dear ones;
The princess among the provinces has been made a toiling slave.	Her friends have all betrayed her and become her enemies.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, why have you abandoned me?

That was written over 2,600 years ago ... a poetic play-by-play of the destruction of Jerusalem ... spoken by God through the mouth of the prophet.

Seven years ago, many churches were filled to overflowing. The political parties were united.

But less than a week later, so called experts were calling for the abolishing of or strict regulation of religion. The political parties were fighting and divided again. And people went back to business as usual.

In the Gospel, Jesus says:

Love your enemies and do good to them ...
Forgive and you will be forgiven.
Give and gifts will be given to you ...
For the measure with which you measure
will in return be measured out to you.

It seems that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Let us pray that we may truly know God by loving him; and by the same measure, truly know ourselves and each other by loving one another as God loves us.