

Devotion for September 2014

Hymn: VU 439 vs 1-3 & 5

Scripture: James 5:4 and Luke 10:7

Reflection:

Nothing spells the end of summer in Canada like Labour Day. You know, in Canada it really started in 1872 when a group of workers in Toronto were protesting. Unions were outlawed at that time. Labour day has progressed from a protest to a celebration enjoyed by all, unions, workers, kids, house wives, retirees and even bosses. From various scriptures it appears labour at the time of Jesus and even in the old testament had no day of celebration. Jesus certainly recognized that, never advocated for a “Labour Day” celebration but simply preached, treat people equally, with respect, and pay them fairly for their efforts. He never advocated strikes nor formal protests, but ignored those laws that were unjust and unfair and urged people to live by his edict, love your neighbour.

Discussion

We should talk about how, if we lived by Jesus teaching would we need the labour movement. If our ancestors did so, would we have evolved into the adversarial system that labour and management enjoy today. The book may be old, but the common sense and teaching of Jesus will never grow old.

Hymn: VU 307

Prayer.

Lord, as one hymn says, “make me an instrument of your peace”, we pray that the day will come when we will truly love our neighbour and a labour day celebration will truly be a celebration every day.

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