



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: IBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: A CULTURE OF CONTEMPT
DATE: APRIL 2019

- **Welcome and Self-Introductions**
- **Ignatian Business Chapters Mission Statement**
 - The Mission of the Ignatian Business Chapters is to establish and lead a national and international network of business executives to explore their respective religious traditions in order to help the individual executives:
 - To integrate faith, family, and professional life,
 - To develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values
 - To exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.
 - The conference, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcomes believers who are open to and respectful of one another's religious tradition. It is committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one's religious heritage.
- **Scripture Reading: Luke 6:36-45**

Compassion and generosity

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give,

and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Integrity

He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

New American Bible, Revised Edition

- **Quiet Reflection: 5 minutes followed by sharing insights**
- **Article: “Our Culture of Contempt,” by Arthur C. Brooks.** Click [here](#) to read this articles from *The New York Times*.
- **Questions to Initiate Discussion:**

Be Attentive: In the psychological literature, contempt is considered a negative effect. As Arthur Brooks describes the ideological factions in our nation and in our personal networks, where do we experience contempt? Any stories? Contempt can be a delicious weapon. How do we use it?

Be Intelligent: Brooks asks us, “So what can each of us do to make things better?” What are you thoughts? Can we “disagree better”?

Be Reasonable: Compare Arthur Brooks' conclusion on how to prevent contempt, starting with ourselves, with the scripture reading today.

Be Responsible: As a leader in work, family, community, how can you minimize contempt and maximize being people who “uplift and unite, not denigrate and divide.” Can the weather start to improve? Be an agent of hope! How? Any examples in the past or intentions for this week?

How will this conversation today affect you as you move into your work, family, and community?

- **Closing Prayer: Suscipe, St. Ignatius**

Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. To you Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace that is enough for me. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

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