

October 28, 2021

Dear Praying Family and Friends,

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Five and a half weeks after my last discharge from the hospital, my body is trying valiantly to return to normal. Just what that turns out to mean is still a work in progress (see below for details).
- I am feeling better, resting well, eating well, hugely enjoying the rest from week long sojourns in the hospital, and happy to not be making weekly treks to the cancer clinic when not resident in the hospital.
- On Friday October 29, I have another PET scan, critically important for determining which direction my therapy goes from that point.  
On Saturday October 30, Lord willing, Barbara and I will fly to Milwaukee to visit dear friends in the Lord - Scott and Elisabeth and their six children. We fly home on Wednesday November 3.
- On Thursday, November 11, I meet with [my oncologist](#) whose specialty is leukemia and lymphoma therapy at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Clinic. That consultation will establish what's next for my therapy.

### **SOMETHING TO PONDER UNTIL THE NEXT UPDATE**

If you've ever spent any time interacting with family and friends on social media, you've run across what are known as *memes* (for the uninitiated, it's pronounced *meem*, rhymes with *seem*). If you look up the definition of the word meme, you'll get a result that seems (to me, at any rate) to have nothing to do with the things called a *meme* in social media. Functionally, a meme in that context amounts to what I'd call a digital cartoon.

Invariably, the meme you encounter in social media is some form of graphic (usually a photo, but sometimes a drawing or a graph) coupled with a bit of text that interprets the graphic. Or, vice-versa - the graphic illustrating or interpreting the text. Here is a very simple example that uses a graphic made up of elements from the key signature from a music staff:

My favorite meme are those that use graphics to enhance an otherwise literary joke, such as the following:

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**IRONY**

The opposite of wrinkly.

Some of these can be quite silly, of course:



Other mems can use graphics to enhance a text that is meant to provoke thought, such as this one:

**Age doesn't define  
Maturity.**



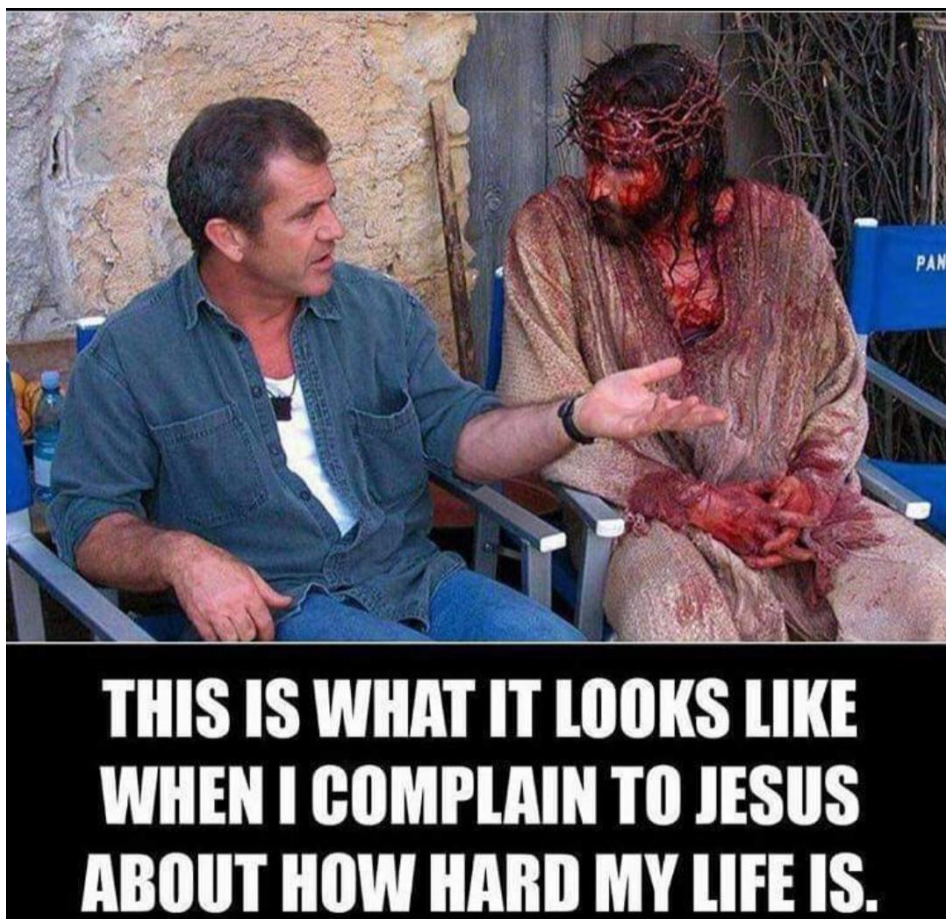
**Maturity is an attitude  
built by experience.**

Occasionally, you'll come across a meme that is both funny, but also thought provoking. The Book of Proverbs contains many of these, though the proverb is only two lines of text. Consider, for example, Proverbs 11:22:

A jewel of gold in a swine's snout,  
A beautiful woman without taste.

In ordinary “meme fashion,” the first line gives us an image, a mental graphic if you will - a golden jewel in the snout of a pig. The second line tells us what the image conjured up is supposed to *illustrate* for us - a beautiful woman who lacks taste. The proverb can make us laugh, but it is also thought provoking.

It's this latter sort of meme which I leave with the following meme:



I'll give you my thoughts on it in a future update, but I want you to have some time to mull over its more sober implications before I share the thoughts it has provoked in me, especially in light of my adventures since June 1. Some of you media-savvy folk will already have seen this meme or a one with a slightly different caption. This caption relates to my adventures since June 1 of this year.

The next update will arrive sometime after November 11. In the meantime, I am grateful for all your prayers, in particular for the events on the dates mentioned in the Executive Summary above.

Much love in Him,

Fr. Bill Mouser