The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance

A Few Related Thoughts…

“Of all possessions, a friend is the most precious.”

--Herodotus, 5th-C. BC Greek historian

“A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and that which we take the least care of all to acquire.”

--Francois de la Rochefoucald

“My best friend is the man who, in wishing me well, wishes it for my sake.”

--Aristotle

**Magnanimous**: [Latin: *magnus* (great) + *animus* (soul)] Big-hearted, generous in spirit; easily forgiving of others; not showing resentment, jealousy, or pettiness; noble of heart, and brave. The virtue of magnanimity is, first & foremost, an attitude of the heart and mind. One’s actions & words outwardly show the interior attitude. It is an essential requirement of friendship and love.

“The true mark of greatness is not stridency but magnanimity.”

--J. William Fulbright, ***The Arrogance of Power***

“Five things constitute perfect virtue: gravity, magnanimity, earnestness, sincerity and kindness.”

--Confucius

“Of all virtues, magnanimity is the rarest; there are a hundred persons of merit for one who willingly acknowledges it in another.”

--William Hazlitt

“One friend in life is much. Two are many. Three are hardly possible.”

--Henry Adams

“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. For the wrath of man does not work for the justice of God. … For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, … he forgets what kind of man he is.”

--James 1:19-24

“A brave man knows no malice; but forgets, in peace, the injuries of war, and gives his direst foe a friend's embrace.”

--William Cowper

“I have learned that greatness is not often born at the head of armies or standing before large gatherings of people. I have learned that it is only rarely manifested in grandiose words or bold action and that it has little to do with position or title or authority. Rather, true greatness most often comes from small turnings within the soul, in quiet ways, in actions that the world will little note. Greatness is around us, below us. It is not often above us. We need to reach down for greatness, where the small things are at our feet. It comes in small, simple words and sublime magnanimity.”

-- Donald S. Smurthwaite, ***The Boxmaker's Son***

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, pompous, or inflated... It is not self-seeking or quick-tempered; it is not irritable or resentful. It takes no joy in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, …endures all things. Love never fails.”

--St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

“Even amid the "busy-ness" and the stress of our daily lives, we need to make space for silence, because it is in silence that we find God, and in silence that we discover our true self. And in discovering our true self, we discover the particular vocation which God has given us.”

# --Pope Benedict XVI, ***Address to Youth***

London, Sept. 18, 2010

Go placidly amidst the noise and haste,

and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,

be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;

and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant;

they too have their story.

--Exerpt: “Desiderata”, by Max Ehrmann

“True strength does not come out of bravado. Until we are broken, our life will be self-centered, self-reliant; our strength will be our own. So long as you think you are really something in and of yourself, what will you need God for? I don’t trust a man who hasn’t suffered; I don’t let a man get close to me who hasn’t faced his wound.”

--John Eldredge, ***Wild at Heart***

“It is inevitable that some defeat will enter even the most victorious life. The human spirit is never finished when it is defeated... it is finished when it surrenders.”

--Ben Stein

“I learned much more from defeat than I ever learned from winning.”

--Alfred Adler

“There are some defeats more triumphant than victories.”

--Michael de Montaigne

“Where a man’s wound is, there his genius will be.”

--Robert Bly, poet & essayist

“Every rose has its thorn.”

--Bret Michaels, musician

# ***For further reading…***

Pope Benedict XVI, ***Address to Youth***, London, Sept. 18, 2010

St. Josemaria Escriva, “Human Virtues” in ***Friends of God***, (New York: Scepter, 1989), #73-93.

Kendall, Mary Claire, “John Wayne’s Longest Journey”, Ch. 6 in ***Oasis: Conversion Stories of Holywood Legends*** (Cincinnati, OH: Franciscan, 2015).