Big Fish

A Few Related Thoughts…

**Important to note**: These quotes are not randomly placed, but rather form a progression of thought—each one leads to the next.

“If any man seeks for greatness, let him forget greatness and ask for truth, and he will find both.”

—Horace Mann

“Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.”

—Winston Churchill

Two roads diverged in a wood and I,

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

—Robert Frost, from “The Road Less Traveled”

“We have come from God, and inevitably the myths woven by us, though they contain error, will also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light, the eternal truth that is with God. Indeed only by myth-making, only by becoming 'sub-creator' and inventing stories, can Man aspire to the state of perfection that he knew before the Fall. Our myths may be misguided, but they steer however shakily towards the true harbour, while materialistic 'progress' leads only to a yawning abyss and the Iron Crown of the power of evil.”

—J.R.R. Tolkien

The heart of Man is not compound of lies—

but draws some wisdom from the only Wise,

and still recalls him. Though now long estranged,

Man is not wholly lost nor wholly changed. …

Blessed are the legend-makers with their rhyme

of things not found within recorded time.

 —From Tolkien’s “Mythopoeia”; in response to C.S. Lewis’ argument that

myths are “lies, and therefore worthless, even though breathed through silver."

“He who wishes to learn must believe.”

—Aristotle

“Maturity means the ability to live by faith, hope, and love. Believing does not always come naturally, and sometimes it requires us to take courage in both hands and put an end to hesitation and doubt... In the same way hope is a choice that often demands an effort. It is easier to worry, get discouraged, be afraid. Hoping means *trusting*. Love is also a decision. Sometimes it comes spontaneously, but very often loving people will mean choosing to love them.”

—Jacques Philippe, ***Interior Freedom***

“Love is not resentful.”

—St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:5)

“Forgiveness is one of the highest forms of love… A refusal to forgive binds us to the person we resent, and diminishes or destroys our freedom.”

—Jacques Philippe, ***Interior Freedom***

“For freedom, Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery... For you were called for freedom, brothers.”

—St. Paul (Galatians 5:1)

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and realize that prisoner was you.”

—Louis B. Smedes

“Forgiveness is a choice. It is not a feeling, but an act of the will. Don’t wait to forgive until you feel like forgiving; you will never get there. This is not saying, ‘It didn’t really matter’; it is not saying, ‘I probably deserved part of it anyway.” Forgiveness says, ‘It was wrong, it mattered, and I release you.’”

—John Eldredge, ***Wild at Heart***

“When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

—Attributed to Mark Twain

“Even if your father did his job, he can only take you partway. There comes a time when we have to leave all that is familiar, and go on into the unknown with God.”

—John Eldredge, ***Wild at Heart***

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

—St. Paul (Romans 8:19-21; 29-30)

“Vocation: the calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter… The fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness.

“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.”

—***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, Glossary; #27

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

—St. Augustine, ***Confessions***

“Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor has it entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

—St. Paul (1 Corinthians 2:9)

## For further reading, …

St. Augustine, ***Confessions***, Book I, Chapters 1 & 5.

St. Josemaría Escrivá, ***The Way***, “Calling” (#902-28).