

Lent, Day 29
Monday, April 8, 2019

Revelation 17:1–18

One of my seminary prof's, Victor Shepherd, related a common feature of Martin Luther's life. Luther was known to pick up his inkwell and whip it at the wall while screaming, "eat your own *scheisse!*" This graphic language, while offensive to some of us, was, in Luther's opinion, the most apt description of sin. What was happening in those moments was Luther felt tempted by the devil to "delight" in some sin. So, he did what Scripture prompted him to do, he resisted the devil.

Dr. Shepherd, commented that Luther recognized that Satan wishes us to see sin in the best light. He wants us to see it as appealing, attractive, and tempting. And, sadly, we do. This is why we are carried away by the lure of sin. But, if we would simply see sin as sin really is, "a great big, steaming, pile of excrement," we would never be tempted by it.

John is revealing a similar picture to us in this chapter. A woman adorned beautifully (sexy or hot would be the words we use today) only too willing to share her charms with those who would pay the price. They can drink from her beautiful golden cup. What they won't know until too late is that it is full of the vilest things we can imagine. Or, as Luther might say, *scheisse!*

Lent isn't just a time to give something up. It's not even just a time to consider our besetting sins. It is a time that we should reflect on our relationship to sin altogether. Are we lured by its charms or can we look behind the pretty paint to see the old used outhouse?

Prayer

Lord, forgive us for our adulterous ways. We have been charmed into sin when we should be faithful to you. Cleanse us we pray. Amen.