***Chez Le Pere Lathuile (At Le Pere Lathuile)*, Edouard Manet, 1879**
***Violin Concerto in D Major, Op 61*, Ludvig Van Beethoven**

You never know who you're going to run into or who will drop into your life… We meet people every day, and we usually don't give them a second thought. Have you ever met someone who was *different*? Someone who looked at you differently--someone who *lives* differently? Have you ever met a person who--just by knowing them--changed the way you saw your own life?

When some of the disciples met Christ, they asked Him, "Where are you staying?" After we meet a presence--one that is different--we have the instinct to follow it. We can have these encounters every day--and these encounters will change us. The problem is awareness. Are we aware of *who* we are meeting?

- Take a moment to observe the painting and listen to the music. Let the music guide you as you study the face of the man looking at the woman. What is different about how this man looks? Who is this woman that he reflects such wonder? What about the waiter?

- Now, read the meditation below, written by Servant of God, Fr Luigi Giussani. Ask yourself:
    - Who is this person or persons in my life?
    - Who have they been? Who will they be?
    - Am I aware of them? Am I grateful?

Following means to look at someone who's before you. What's the first characteristic, the fundamental characteristic of someone before you? The person who's before you is the face of what you have encountered and what first nudged you, gave you an idea, a desire. From the exterior point of view, it was someone, it was the encounter with someone (with a classmate, with a priest…) or with some people in a context (in a church, on a street, in a class at school, at work) that made you say, without even realizing it, "Look at how different this guy is!"

This person made you take note of a difference, a human difference that had, as a characteristic, that of corresponding more sharply, more deeply to the heart in its simplicity. It was a human difference, a difference in living the human life that you acknowledged--confusedly, more or less confusedly, but you acknowledged it--to the extent that the way of living that this guy or those other guys had corresponded to the needs of your heart in a way that was different from usual. It was inclusive, and was, therefore, an ideal. It brought out or provoked an ideal image that had never been brought out before by the way others lived.

More particularly, there was a characteristic that you didn't stop to reflect on, but that you now must stop and reflect on: that man, those people, those classmates… That difference first of all implied seriousness of living. Life for that person was a serious thing. It implied seriousness in living that carried with it a taste for living, a desire to do things, a usefulness in relationships, a goodness.