Worcester F 80 Distinctiones

161 Night through the night (*Nox per noctem*)

Night. “We have labored all the night, and have taken nothing, Luke 5[:5]. The state of sin is compared to night because it is damnable, because of the darkness of blindness. Therefore, it is set before, “All the night,” because it is laborious on account the narrowness of the penalty. Therefore, it is added, “We have labored,” and because it was unfruitful on the account of the vanity of sterility. Therefore, it is said, “We have taken nothing.”

¶ Therefore, sin is compared to night because it strikes fear, it brings coldness, increases languor. So, sin renders the soul fearful for undertaking hard things, disdainful

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for seeking lasting things, indolent for doing beneficial things. Concerning the first, Job 4[:13-14]: “In the horror of a vision by night.” Concerning the second, Bar. 2[:24-25]: “The bones of your kings, should be removed to the frost of the night.” Concerning the third, Job 3[:3]: “Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said: A man child is conceived.”

¶ Again the state of sin is compared to the night on account of the absence of light, on account of the deficiency of work, on account of the unsuitability of discrimination, John 11[:9-10]: “If a man walks in the night,” etc. Again, night is said to be sin because it is like the coldness of night, the uselessness of the dark. For it makes love cold, obscures the reason, makes one useless for good work, John [9:4]: “The night comes, when no man can work.

¶ Again in sin there is a triple labor because of the heart as far as the interior unquietness, of the mouth as far as the disorder of words, of the work as far as its accomplishment. Concerning the first Eccle. 2[22-23]: “What profit shall a man have of all his labor,” etc., up to “in the night he does not rest.” Concerning the second Psal. [9:107]: “His mouth is full of cursing, under his tongue are labor and sorrow.” Concerning the third, Jer. 9[:5]: “They have taught their tongue to speak lies,” etc.

¶ Again, “We have taken nothing,” because in the unfruitful state of sin nothing is produced by the wounding of natural powers, nothing is produced by the loss of temporal matters, nothing is attained from the acquisition of infernal matters.

¶ Concerning the first, Psal. [72:22]: “I am brought to nothing.” Concerning the second, John last chapter [21:3]: “They entered into the ship, and they caught nothing.” Concerning the third, Psal. [58:9]: “He shall bring all the nations to nothing.”