



Daily Reflections

April 24, 2017

Scripture

John 3: 1-8

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

He came to Jesus at night and said to him,

"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him."

Jesus answered and said to him,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to him,

"How can a man once grown old be born again?"

Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?"

Jesus answered,

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

What is born of flesh is flesh
and what is born of spirit is spirit.
Do not be amazed that I told you,
'You must be born from above.'
The wind blows where it wills,
and you can hear the sound it makes,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes;
so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Our Scripture Reflection

A leader of the Jewish people came to Jesus under the cover of darkness to investigate Him. Nicodemus had heard amazing things about Jesus. While he is curious, he lacks faith. Jesus informed Nicodemus that to do the work of God one must be "born from above." The adverbial phrase Jesus used can be equally translated as "born from above" or "born again." Nicodemus was befuddled as he takes Jesus' statement literally. "How can a man once old be born again...must he re-enter his mother's womb?" Of course, Jesus was not talking about a repeat of child birth. Rather, by being "born from above" Jesus meant to be born into a spiritual or heavenly manner of living and thinking, a way that is holy when compared to the secular realm.

Food for your Journey

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave his Son to win;
His erring child he reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.
When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call, God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong; Redeeming grace to Adam's race —
The saints' and angels' song.
Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.
—Frederick Martin Lehman, 1868-1953, hymnwriter.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill me with Your amazing Grace so that I may be united with You completely. Amen.