



Daily Reflections

April 28, 2017

Scripture

Acts 5: 34-42

A Pharisee in the Sanhedrin named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up, ordered the Apostles to be put outside for a short time, and said to the Sanhedrin, "Fellow children of Israel, be careful what you are about to do to these men. Some time ago, Theudas appeared, claiming to be someone important, and about four hundred men joined him, but he was killed, and all those who were loyal to him were disbanded and came to nothing. After him came Judas the Galilean at the time of the census. He also drew people after him, but he too perished and all who were loyal to him were scattered. So now I tell you, have nothing to do with these men, and let them go. For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin,

it will destroy itself.

But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God."

They were persuaded by him.

After recalling the Apostles, they had them flogged, ordered them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them.

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

And all day long, both at the temple and in their homes, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the Christ, Jesus.

Our Scripture Reflection

Acts of the Apostles gives us a realistic look into the life of the very early Church. Persecution, rejection, ridicule and growth pains occurred regularly. But they moved forward. Why? Because they truly believed Jesus had called them to do so and that He was with them through the Holy Spirit at all times. The Church as the result of the efforts of those early witnesses spread like wild fire to the then known "ends of the earth."

Food for your Journey

If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder or lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.

--Frederick Douglass, address on West India Emancipation, August 4, 1857.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill me up with Your Holy Spirit so that I may witness to Your loving presence each day. Amen.