



# Daily Reflections

**June 5, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Tobit 1:3; 2: 1-8**

I, Tobit, have walked all the days of my life  
on the paths of truth and righteousness.

I performed many charitable works for my kinsmen and my people  
who had been deported with me to Nineveh, in Assyria.

On our festival of Pentecost, the feast of Weeks,  
a fine dinner was prepared for me, and I reclined to eat.

The table was set for me,

and when many different dishes were placed before me,

I said to my son Tobiah: "My son,

go out and try to find a poor man

from among our kinsmen exiled here in Nineveh.

If he is a sincere worshiper of God, bring him back with you,  
so that he can share this meal with me.

Indeed, son, I shall wait for you to come back."

Tobiah went out to look for some poor kinsman of ours.

When he returned he exclaimed, "Father!"

I said to him, "What is it, son?"

He answered, "Father, one of our people has been murdered!

His body lies in the market place where he was just strangled!"

I sprang to my feet, leaving the dinner untouched;

and I carried the dead man from the street

and put him in one of the rooms,

so that I might bury him after sunset.

Returning to my own quarters, I washed myself and ate my food in sorrow.

I was reminded of the oracle pronounced by the prophet Amos against Bethel: "All your festivals shall be turned into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation."

And I wept.

Then at sunset I went out, dug a grave, and buried him.

The neighbors mocked me, saying to one another:

"He is still not afraid!

Once before he was hunted down for execution because of this very thing; yet now that he has scarcely escaped, here he is again burying the dead!"

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Tobit was a very pious and just Israelite man who was caught up in the exile of his people by the Assyrian empire. Even though the Israelites were forbidden to practice their faith by the king of Assyria, Tobit continued to live his faith to the fullest extent possible. In today's reading, we encounter Tobit as he was prepared to eat a sumptuous meal. But before he would touch the food, he sent his son out to find a poor person to dine with him. His son discovered a dead man lying in the streets and after summoning His father, they together bring the body into their home. His heart is filled with sadness for the dead man as he attempts to eat his food. And immediately after the meal, Tobit buried the dead man at great risk to himself. How so? The pious practice of burying the dead was forbidden by the pagan king. Tobit literally risked his life to practice his faith by doing good for another. What an role model he is.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Many Christians have what we might call a "cultural holiness." They adapt to the character and behavior pattern of Christians around them. As the Christian culture around them is more or less holy, so these Christians are more or less holy. But God has not called us to be like those around us. He

has called us to be like himself. Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God.

-Jerry Bridges.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Like Tobit, may I live my faith by doing good for others, especially the least in Your Kingdom. Amen.