



Daily Reflections

July 2, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 10: 37-42

Jesus said to his apostles:

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me,
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever does not take up his cross
and follow after me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me,
and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet
will receive a prophet's reward,

and whoever receives a righteous man
because he is a righteous man
will receive a righteous man's reward.

And whoever gives only a cup of cold water
to one of these little ones to drink
because the little one is a disciple—
amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus was not trying to take away an Apostle's love for his family. However, putting love for Him first was a basic requirement, for an Apostle and for us.

And if we do, we will discover that love for others, especially our family, becomes genuine and healthy. Love for Jesus inspires love for others, unconditionally.

Food for your Journey

"There was a legend that a rich merchant scoured the Mediterranean world looking for the distinguished apostle Paul. He encountered Timothy, who arranged a visit with Paul, who was a prisoner in Rome.

"Entering the jail cell, the merchant found a rather old man, physically broken down. The merchant was amazed at Paul's personal peace and serenity . . . they talked for hours. The merchant left with Paul's blessing and prayer . . . Outside, the merchant inquired, 'What is the key to Paul's power? I have never seen anyone like him in my entire life.'

"'Haven't you figured it out?' asked Timothy. 'Paul is in love ... Paul is in love with Jesus Christ.'

"The man looked even more confused. 'Is that all?'

"With a smile on his face, the young preacher answered, 'Ah, but that is everything.'"

--O. S. Hawkins,

Revive Us Again

(Nashville Broadman Press, 1990),107.

Gerald G. May, practicing psychiatrist and professor, begins his book *Addiction and Grace* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988) with this bold theological insight:

"I am convinced that all human beings have an inborn desire for God. Whether we are consciously religious or not, this desire is our deepest longing and our most precious treasure ... Regardless of how we describe it, it is a longing for love. It is a hunger to love, to be loved, and to move closer to the Source of love. This yearning is the essence of the human spirit" (1).

--As quoted by John M. Buchanan,

"For the Love of God,"

20 September 1992,2.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You loved me before I knew what true love was. Help me, Lord, to put You at the center of my heart and to love You above all things. Amen.