



Daily Reflections

July 11, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 9: 32-38

A demoniac who could not speak was brought to Jesus,
and when the demon was driven out the mute man spoke.

The crowds were amazed and said,

"Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

But the Pharisees said,

"He drives out demons by the prince of demons."

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,

teaching in their synagogues,

proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,

and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them

because they were troubled and abandoned,

like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;

so ask the master of the harvest

to send out laborers for his harvest."

Our Scripture Reflection

It's sad how empty our lives become when we allow the material realm to be our shepherd. The world can be heartless and cruel. But Jesus is the Good

Shepherd. He offers us a way that often runs contrary to the world, the only way that will bring peace.

Food for your Journey

A monk in his early 30s once told me that he'd come to the monastery not realizing what a shock it would be to suddenly not have to compete for the things that young men are conditioned to compete for in American society - in his words, "a good salary, a cool car and a pretty girlfriend. When all of that was suddenly gone," he said, "and held of no account, I felt as if my whole life were a lie. It took me years to find out who God wanted me to be."

-Kathleen Norris, *The Cloister Walk* (Riverhead, 1997), quoted in *Context*, April 15, 1998, 2.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, The world in which I live offers so much to me. However, rather than feeling fulfilled, I often feel empty and stressed. Help me to keep my eyes focused on You and Your way so that I may experience the joy that only You can give. Amen.