



Daily Reflections

July 14, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 10: 18-23

Jesus said to his Apostles:

"Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves;
so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves.

But beware of men,

for they will hand you over to courts

and scourge you in their synagogues,

and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake
as a witness before them and the pagans.

When they hand you over,

do not worry about how you are to speak

or what you are to say.

You will be given at that moment what you are to say.

For it will not be you who speak

but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will hand over brother to death,

and the father his child;

children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name,

but whoever endures to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to another.

Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel
before the Son of Man comes."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus was quite aware of the kind of environment into which He was sending His disciples. He promised to be with them and even to provide words when necessary. Being a disciple was never meant to be easy. The cross can be heavy. However, nothing can compare to the joy that comes from carrying the cross faithfully.

Food for your Journey

When Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened," he assumed we would grow weary, discouraged and disheartened along the way. These words are a touching testimony to the genuine humanness of Jesus. He had no romantic notion of the cost of discipleship. He knew that following him was as unsentimental as duty, as demanding as love.

--Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out* (Doubleday, 2015), 101.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Be my light in this world that is filled with so much darkness. Help me to reveal Your light to those who hunger and thirst for meaning and love. Amen