



Daily Reflections

July 21, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 12: 1-8

Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath.
His disciples were hungry
and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them.
When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him,
"See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath."
He said to the them, "Have you not read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry,
how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering,
which neither he nor his companions
but only the priests could lawfully eat?
Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath
the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath
and are innocent?
I say to you, something greater than the temple is here.
If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
you would not have condemned these innocent men.
For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

Our Scripture Reflection

In today's text, we see an example of the "yoke" of Jesus. While He did not come to abolish The Law, He nonetheless taught that acts of mercy towards people in need superseded a rigid, legalistic observance of The Law.

Food for your Journey

Just about everyone is familiar with this line from the 23rd Psalm, in the King James Version: "I shall not want." But what does it mean?

Some people hear that line and see it as a pledge not to desire anything. But that's not it at all. What the psalmist means by "I shall not want" is better expressed by some modern translations that render this line: "There is nothing I lack." Or, as another version puts it, turning the phrase around and expressing it positively: "The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need."

Rabbi Harold Kushner, in his devotional commentary on the 23rd Psalm, relies on the wisdom of a friend of his, who says the verse really means, "The Lord is my shepherd, what more do I need?" It's a statement of satisfaction, of sufficiency, of contentment that goes against the grain of our hyper-materialistic consumer society.

--See Harold Kushner, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm* (Knopf, 2003), 29.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me to love all people as You love them. May I never miss an opportunity to show compassion to those who are in need. Amen.