



Daily Reflections

July 27, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 13: 10-17

The disciples approached Jesus and said,

"Why do you speak to the crowd in parables?"

He said to them in reply,

"Because knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.

To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

You shall indeed hear but not understand,
you shall indeed look but never see.

Gross is the heart of this people,
they will hardly hear with their ears,

they have closed their eyes,

lest they see with their eyes

and hear with their ears

and understand with their hearts and be converted

and I heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see,
and your ears, because they hear.

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it,

and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus knew well that the lack of humility would prevent people from hearing and accepting His Word. He, therefore, would speak to them in parables. Why? So that they would have to work for the information He was imparting and in the process of working, they would, hopefully, become strong (and humble) in their faith.

Food for your Journey

A famous rabbi once surprised some learned men who were his guests by asking, "Where does God live?" They laughed at him. "What are you saying? Surely the world is full of his glory!" But he answered his own question: "God lives where people admit him."

In Gerd Theissen's words (The Open Door: Variations on Biblical Themes [Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991], 107): "If we recognize that God is where we admit him, then our question changes. In that case we no longer ask 'Where is God? Where can God be experienced? Where do we encounter him?' But we notice that we are being asked, 'Where are you? Where do you admit God into your life? ... Where do you make room for God?'"

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Pour forth Your Grace upon me and help me to become humble and open to Your Word. Amen.