



Daily Reflections

July 30, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 13: 44-52

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.

When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea,
which collects fish of every kind.

When it is full they haul it ashore
and sit down to put what is good into buckets.

What is bad they throw away.

Thus it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous
and throw them into the fiery furnace,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?"

They answered, "Yes."

And he replied,

"Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven
is like the head of a household
who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

Our Scripture Reflection

It's amazing what we will do to get what we want. We've all shaken our head when we hear stories in the news about people who camp outside a store for days just to be first in line to purchase the latest I-Phone, video game or tennis shoes. But what are we willing to do for our faith? Is that not the most important gift we could possibly have? Only faith can get us to eternal joy in Heaven. What are you willing to sacrifice for it?

Food for your Journey

There is a fable from India about a rich man who is traveling far from home. A poor man notices his fine clothes and bulging money-bag. He decides to travel with him and look out for a way to steal his treasure.

Every night, in the humble inns along the roadside, the poor man unrolls his bedroll early and pretends to sleep. Then, as the rich man leaves the room to get washed up, the thief rummages through his belongings in search of the treasure-sack.

He never can find it. As soon as he hears the rich man's footsteps, he leaps back into his bedroll, always certain he's just moments away from finding the treasure.

Every morning, the poor man once again pretends to sleep, until the rich man goes down for breakfast. Yet, morning is the same as evening: The thief never can find the money-bag.

Day after day this goes on, until the two men finally reach their destination. As they are parting ways, the thief's curiosity gets the better of him. He admits to the rich man what he's been up to. "How have you eluded me for so long?" he asks. "Did you guess that I was out to rob you?"

"Yes," says the rich man. "I guessed that the very first night."

"Then where did you hide the treasure?"

"It was very simple. Every night, while you went to get cleaned up before bed, I slipped into the room and put my treasure in your pillow. Every morning, after you had rifled through my belongings, I got it back."

Sometimes we miss the treasure close at hand.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Open my eyes to recognize the precious gift You have given to me in my holy faith. May I never miss an opportunity to grow my faith. Amen.