



Daily Reflections

August 12, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 17: 14-20

A man came up to Jesus, knelt down before him, and said,
"Lord, have pity on my son, who is a lunatic and suffers severely;
often he falls into fire, and often into water.

I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Jesus said in reply,

"O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you?

How long will I endure you?

Bring the boy here to me."

Jesus rebuked him and the demon came out of him,
and from that hour the boy was cured.

Then the disciples approached Jesus in private and said,

"Why could we not drive it out?"

He said to them, "Because of your little faith.

Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you will say to this mountain,

'Move from here to there,' and it will move.

Nothing will be impossible for you."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus expressed frustration with His disciples because after being with Him for so long they continued to lack faith. Using the example of the mustard seed, He teaches them that it's not the quantity of faith that is important, but

rather, the quality or the "depth" of their faith. Faith is like a two sided coin. On one hand, it is a gift from God. On the other, it is a task. Faith takes work. It requires a daily walking with the Lord.

Food for your Journey

For a faith badge to "work," that is, inspire trust and faith in you as a person, the badge itself needs to be recognizable for its religious connection.

In this regard, the Christian cross may work as a faith badge and it may not. Many people without the slightest religious inclination and many whose lifestyle is positively anti-Christian may wear some sort of "cross" jewelry. People from all walks of life wear this Christian symbol, and zealous and intentional Christians don't seem to object to this communization and banal appropriation of their faith symbol. Porn stars and cons, politicians and career people, socialites and cosmeticians wear crosses.

As a consequence, the cross has lost its power as a badge of faith. It regains that power only when the wearer of the badge lives a life of such utter sacrifice that the sacrifice reminds one of the sacrifice the cross represents.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Please give me the patience and fortitude I need to work at my faith. When I find myself feeling frustrated at temporary setbacks, keep me strong and faithful. Amen.