



Daily Reflections

August 14, 2017

Scripture

Deuteronomy 10: 12-22

Moses said to the people:

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD, your God, ask of you but to fear the LORD, your God, and follow his ways exactly, to love and serve the LORD, your God,

with all your heart and all your soul,

to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD

which I enjoin on you today for your own good?

Think! The heavens, even the highest heavens,

belong to the LORD, your God,

as well as the earth and everything on it.

Yet in his love for your fathers the LORD was so attached to them as to choose you, their descendants,

in preference to all other peoples, as indeed he has now done.

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and be no longer stiff-necked.

For the LORD, your God, is the God of gods,

the LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome,

who has no favorites, accepts no bribes;

who executes justice for the orphan and the widow,

and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him.

So you too must befriend the alien,

for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.

The LORD, your God, shall you fear, and him shall you serve;

hold fast to him and swear by his name.

He is your glory, he, your God,
who has done for you those great and terrible things
which your own eyes have seen.
Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy strong,
and now the LORD, your God,
has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Book of Deuteronomy purports to be a speech by Moses to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land, a "pep talk" if you will. To "fear" the Lord in this text, means to have a humble sense of the awesomeness of God. In other words, to recognize how big God is and how small they are before God. Because of this truth, and because of the love of God who rescued them from bitter slavery in Egypt, they must follow God's commands. Obedience and fidelity are rooted in gratitude.

Food for your Journey

Throughout my various illnesses, I prayed. My prayer was not answered because I lived; my prayer was answered because I felt better able to cope with my sickness. Each time I go for my regular tests, the CT or PET scans or an MRI, each time I am moved into the metal tube that will give an image of sickness or health, I pray. I do not pray because I believe God will give me a clear scan. I pray because I am not alone, and from gratitude that having been near death I am still in life. I pray not for magic, but for closeness; not for miracles, but for love.

The novelist George Meredith wrote, "Who rises from his prayer a better man, his prayer is answered."

--Rabbi David J. Wolpe (a brain cancer and lymphoma survivor), *Why Faith Matters* (HarperOne, 2008), 25.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Out of gratitude for the tremendous gift of Your sacrifice for me, I offer You all of the love in my heart. Help me to remain faithful each day to Your way. Amen.