



Daily Reflections

September 3, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 16: 21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Our Scripture Reflection

"You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do": Peter could not fathom the thought that the messiah would have to suffer. It just didn't make sense. After all, he had been taught that the messiah would be glorious and victorious. When Jesus taught His disciples that He must suffer so as to enter His glory, Peter refused to accept what Jesus said. Only after the Resurrection did Peter finally comprehend. No other religion in the history of mankind taught that its deity would suffer. The idea of a suffering Savior is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Our lives as Christians are based on one powerful Truth: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son".

Food for your Journey

"If you please God, it does not matter whom you displease. And if you displease him, it does not matter whom you please."

--Steven J. Lawson, *The Kind of Preaching God Blesses*.

Apropos self-denial: "Nietzsche knows very well the deepest concern of his freethinking readers: If I hand over my mind, my life, and my soul to God, how then can I retain my uniquely valuable individuality? What is so remarkable, however, is that Nietzsche does not give a conventionally modern, reassuring answer. Over the course of his rhetorically vertiginous analysis of the sources of morality, he slowly reshapes the expectations of his readers and guides them toward a deeper question, perhaps the deepest existential question of them all: Is it possible to have a distinct individuality, a soul to which I might be loyal, if I do not finally say with Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will but thine"?"

--For more, see R.R. Reno's article,

"Nietzsche's deeper truth," *First Things*,
firstthings.com/article/2007/12/003-nietzsches-deeper-truth. Retrieved
March 7, 2014.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave everything so that I might one day enjoy Paradise with You. Help me to show my gratitude for Your incredible gift by living as Your faithful disciple. Amen.