



Daily Reflections

October 6, 2017

Scripture

Luke 10: 13-16

Jesus said to them,
"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!
For if the mighty deeds done in your midst
had been done in Tyre and Sidon,
they would long ago have repented,
sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon
at the judgment than for you.
And as for you, Capernaum, 'Will you be exalted to heaven?
You will go down to the netherworld.'
Whoever listens to you listens to me.
Whoever rejects you rejects me.
And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus laments over the towns whose residents will not receive the Gospel. Unless they change, it will not go well for them. You can tell by His words to them that their rejection pains Him. There are many in our own day who will not accept the Gospel. We must pray for them.

Food for your Journey

If it is true that more and more our country seems to resemble ancient Rome, then like the early Christians, those who confess the name of Jesus and follow him on the way can never forget that the path led to a place of execution. Hence the meaning of "taking up the cross," not as something that the disciple seeks out; not as something into which we will later "stumble as by mistake;" but rather as an ever-present possibility that the disciple "deliberately shoulders and carries from the beginning" (Ernst Best, "Discipleship in Mark," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 23 [1970] 330). We must be faithful in the midst of a plurality of gods and be prepared to live in "holy insecurity"" (as Buber puts it) and unpopularity among a plethora of what Karl Barth called "disguised religions" out there that go by various other names - politics, economics, ideologies, fads, and fashions.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Today, I pray for those who have turned away from You and those who want nothing to do with You and Your Gospel. Lord, touch their hearts so that they may change and become humble and receptive to Your Good News. Amen.