



Daily Reflections

October 19, 2017

Scripture

Luke 11: 47-54

The Lord said:

"Woe to you who build the memorials of the prophets whom your fathers killed.

Consequently, you bear witness and give consent to the deeds of your ancestors, for they killed them and you do the building.

Therefore, the wisdom of God said,

'I will send to them prophets and Apostles; some of them they will kill and persecute'

in order that this generation might be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world,

from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the temple building.

Yes, I tell you, this generation will be charged with their blood!

Woe to you, scholars of the law!

You have taken away the key of knowledge.

You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter."

When Jesus left, the scribes and Pharisees

began to act with hostility toward him

and to interrogate him about many things,

for they were plotting to catch him at something he might say.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus takes the Scholars of the Law to task repeatedly in today's Gospel text because of their hypocrisy and selfishness. Even though their role was to be guardian and interpreter of the Law, they did nothing to assist people with learning and living the Law.

Food for your Journey

C.S. Lewis described the syndrome of high-minded scientists who work tirelessly for "mankind" in the abstract, but have no time for others. Is this where we will finish? As guardians of the "true faith," keepers of good appearances, but unable, for fear of the rules, to show respect, kindness, mercy or compassion to those real flesh-and-blood people who surround us?

Perhaps respect, kindness and mercy would serve us better. Had he wanted to, God could have sent us a systematic theology instead of Jesus. He sent Jesus. He could have given us clear guidelines and rules and ways of adapting them to be "culturally relevant in the 21st century." He sent Jesus, as flesh and blood.

This may be taken as a hint.

-"Operative theology - The only one that matters!" Ship of Fools Rant of the Month, October 1998.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I grow in my knowledge of You and Your Gospel, please give me the Grace to live what I learn. Amen.