



Daily Reflections

November 3, 2017

Scripture

Luke 14: 1-6

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. In front of him there was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus spoke to the scholars of the law and Pharisees in reply, asking, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath or not?" But they kept silent; so he took the man and, after he had healed him, dismissed him. Then he said to them "Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the sabbath day?" But they were unable to answer his question.

Our Scripture Reflection

What in the world was a man suffering with dropsy (edema, abnormal swelling) doing at a festive Passover dinner table? Because he would have been considered "unclean" by the Pharisees means that this unwelcome man likely forced himself into the house. He was desperate to see Jesus. Jesus knew well that the Pharisees would be enraged if He performed a healing "work" on the Sabbath, even if such a work would bring peace to the suffering man's life. In posing the question about rescuing a son or ox on the Sabbath,

He reduces them to silence while exposing their hypocrisy. For Our Lord, there never is an inappropriate time to do good for someone in need.

Food for your Journey

Winston Churchill was a master of the one line witty put down. He described his political opponent Clem Attlee as "a modest man who has much to be modest about" and "a sheep in sheep's clothing."

But are these really insulting? Is it not good to be known for modesty and genuine humility? Is not "arrogance" the real insult of today? ...

Arrogance is the pride of self-importance. It is thinking of yourself as more important or more able than you are. It is often accompanied by showing contempt or disregard for others.

--Phillip Jensen, "The 'arrogance' of humility," From the Dean, April 24, 2009,

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please fill my heart with Your love so that I may always see and respond to the needs of those who are hurting. Amen.