



Daily Reflections

November 16, 2017

Scripture

Luke 17: 20-25

Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply,

"The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."

Then he said to his disciples,

"The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.

There will be those who will say to you,

'Look, there he is,' or 'Look, here he is.'

Do not go off, do not run in pursuit.

For just as lightning flashes

and lights up the sky from one side to the other,

so will the Son of Man be in his day.

But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation."

Our Scripture Reflection

Do you remember the anxiety felt by many as we prepared for the new year on December 31, 1999? I remember a priest who died from a rare cancer a couple of months before the new year having written in some notes he left behind, "Y2K will NOT be a problem for me!" In our Gospel text, some religious authorities approach Jesus with a question about the coming of the

Kingdom. They had missed a point Jesus had made several times while they were busy denouncing Him. Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom with His very Presence and in each work that He did. For Jesus, the Kingdom is not about timing, it is about being humble and open to it as it comes. The Kingdom will come in its fullness when He returns as the King of Glory at the end of time. In the meantime, we receive a privileged glimpse of it each time His will is done here on earth.

Food for your Journey

William Barclay identifies three Greek words commonly used in the New Testament to refer to the coming again of Jesus Christ.

The [most common] -- and the one used here, in this passage from the letter of James -- is parousia. It has an ordinary meaning of someone's coming or arrival, but also has two specialized meanings: "It is used of the invasion of a country by an army; and specially it is used of the visit of a king or a governor to a province of his empire."

The second word Barclay identifies is epiphaneia, which can mean "the appearance of a god to his worshipper; and it is used of the accession of an emperor to the imperial power of Rome."

Another word utilized in the New Testament to describe Jesus' return is apokalupsis. "Apokalupsis in ordinary Greek means an unveiling or a laying bare; and when it is used of Jesus, it means that his Second Coming is the laying bare of the power and glory of God ..."

--William Barclay, *The Letters of James and Peter*, in the Daily Study Bible series (Westminster John Knox Press, 1976), 122.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, May Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. May I always be open to its Presence each time Your will is done. Amen.