



Daily Reflections

November 21, 2017

Scripture

Luke 19: 1-10

At that time Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him,

"Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Our Scripture Reflection

It's amazing how we have so much in common with the despised chief tax collector, Zacchaeus: we are sinners and we are certainly not worthy for Jesus to enter our house. But there is one thing that places Zacchaeus ahead of most of us. Despite the sneers and jeers of the judgmental crowd, he was not afraid to show publicly his love for Jesus! How often we fail to witness to our faith in Jesus because we fear what people, even family members, might think. Not so for the short man, Zacchaeus. Perhaps all of us could use a little bit of Zacchaeus' love and courage.

Food for your Journey

To get a sense of how the general public felt about tax collectors in Jesus' day, imagine a scenario in which an IRS agent is placed in a room full of Tea Party members. Rest assured, the IRS agent in such a scenario would be looking for the nearest tree to climb.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, There has never been a more urgent time in our Country for me to witness to my love for You. So many times I fail to acknowledge my faith because of embarrassment or fear that I may be called a hypocrite. Oh, how I deny You! Forgive me, Lord. Help me to be "courageously generous" in showing my love for You to all who hunger and thirst for You even though they may not admit it. Amen.