



Daily Reflections

November 23, 2017

Scripture

Luke 19: 42-44

As Jesus drew near Jerusalem,
he saw the city and wept over it, saying,
"If this day you only knew what makes for peace—
but now it is hidden from your eyes.
For the days are coming upon you
when your enemies will raise a palisade against you;
they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides.
They will smash you to the ground and your children within you,
and they will not leave one stone upon another within you
because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

Our Scripture Reflection

What a gloomy Scripture for Thanksgiving Day! The theme of this passage could easily be: "Opportunity Missed". Jesus laments over His people and their lack of appreciation for the many blessings the Father had poured upon them through the years. Presently, God had given them the gift of His only Son to forgive all their past misdeeds. But they would nail Him to the Cross. No wonder He laments because His people's behavior was pathetic and lamentable. Therein lies the message for us on this Thanksgiving Day: take the time to reflect, to remember, to appreciate and to express Thanksgiving. If we do, what a meaningful day this will be.

Food for your Journey

Choices. Choices make the difference. Two people are in the same accident and severely wounded. They did not choose to be in the accident. It happened to them. But one of them chose to live the experience in bitterness, the other in gratitude. These choices radically influenced their lives and the lives of their families and friends. We have very little control over what happens in our lives, but we have a lot of control over how we integrate and remember what happens. It is precisely these spiritual choices that determine whether we live our lives with dignity.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey* (Harper Collins, 1997), 6.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, On this Thanksgiving Day, I thank You for loving me and redeeming me. May I spend my time this day praising You as I celebrate Your goodness with my family and friends. Amen.