



Daily Reflections

November 24, 2017

Scripture

Luke 19: 45-48

Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, "It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

And every day he was teaching in the temple area.

The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people, meanwhile, were seeking to put him to death,

but they could find no way to accomplish their purpose because all the people were hanging on his words.

Our Scripture Reflection

What an ironic and striking contrast: Jesus in the Temple area trying to proclaim His Father's will while the religious authorities are plotting to kill Him! This scene gets played out in the life of the person of faith many times it seems. We profess our faith in Jesus and try to live His Gospel only to experience the effects of evil trying to thwart our efforts. How do we deal with such adversity yet remain faithful to the work of Jesus? Keep your eyes on Him...on His Cross. His light will give you the strength and focus necessary to do His good work.

Food for your Journey

For a faith badge to "work," that is, inspire trust and faith in you as a person, the badge itself needs to be recognizable for its religious connection.

In this regard, the Christian cross may work as a faith badge and it may not. Many people without the slightest religious inclination and many whose lifestyle is positively anti-Christian may wear some sort of "cross" jewelry. People from all walks of life wear this Christian symbol, and zealous and intentional Christians don't seem to object to this communization and banal appropriation of their faith symbol. Porn stars and cons, politicians and career people, socialites and cosmeticians wear crosses.

As a consequence, the cross has lost its power as a badge of faith. It regains that power only when the wearer of the badge lives a life of such utter sacrifice that the sacrifice reminds one of the sacrifice the cross represents.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You remained focused on the work Your Father gave You to do. Nothing could deter nor distract You, ever. Keep me focused and faithful, Lord. Take away any frustration, doubt or fear that I may experience, and instead, give me trust, faith and hope. Amen.