



Daily Reflections

November 29, 2017

Scripture

Luke 21: 12-19

Jesus said to the crowd:

"They will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.

It will lead to your giving testimony.

Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.

You will even be handed over by parents,
brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Our Scripture Reflection

When reading Luke's Gospel and his second volume the Acts of the Apostles back-to-back, we see how what Jesus foretold in the Gospel is fulfilled in the Acts. Such is the case in today's text. Jesus tells His disciples about a time when they will face persecution because of their faith in Him. They are not to worry, however, because He will be with them. Jesus was faithful to His word

and because of His Presence to the disciples they were able to spread His Gospel "to the ends of the earth." It is so important for us to remember Jesus' promise as we witness to Him in our own day.

Food for your Journey

Here is another letter, from Alfred Schmidt-Sas, who was executed on April 9, 1943, at the age of 47, after several imprisonments in concentration camps. A teacher and musician, he dedicated himself to fighting the Nazi movement. His letter was in the form of this poem written in the death cell in October 1942:

As in the game of chess, so too in life it matters not

Whether the duel be fought with pieces carved with wood or gold.

How one plays, and what one plays for, that alone

Reveals the man.

Whether, upon post-mortem, menials hurry off the corpse,

Or obsequies of state consign one to a splendid tomb,

How one dies, and what one dies for, that alone

Reveals the man.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Be with me as I witness to Your Gospel. If I encounter hardship for my efforts, strengthen me and help me to be courageous. Amen.