



Daily Reflections

December 17, 2017

Scripture

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him
to ask him, "Who are you?"
He admitted and did not deny it,
but admitted, "I am not the Christ."
So they asked him,
"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"
And he said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?"
He answered, "No."
So they said to him,
"Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said:
"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"
as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent.
They asked him,
"Why then do you baptize
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"
John answered them,
"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as "Gaudete Sunday", "the Sunday of Rejoicing." We are getting close to the birthday of Our Savior and the scripture readings evoke a sense of excitement and joy.

There is one thing you must keep in mind. The more you invest in your Advent work the more joy you will experience when Christmas arrives. May this day and each day that remains of the Advent season enable you to "prepare the way for the Lord!"

Food for your Journey

Joy is not a constant condition. Most people manage a settled cheerfulness, but this -- no matter how admirable -- has nothing to do with joy, which flashes suddenly on our darkness. Like the light in an El Greco painting, joy does not merely illuminate the landscape. It transforms it.

--Sr. Wendy Beckett, *Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations* (DK Books, 1998), 118.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Christmas Day is quickly approaching and how excited I am to celebrate Your birth. Please give me the Grace I need to open my heart completely so that I may receive You with joy. Amen.