



Daily Reflections

January 12, 2018

Scripture

Mark 2: 1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it became known that he was at home.

Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them,
not even around the door,
and he preached the word to them.

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.
Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd,
they opened up the roof above him.

After they had broken through,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him,
"Child, your sins are forgiven."

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves,
"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming.

Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Jesus immediately knew in his mind what
they were thinking to themselves,

so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts?

Which is easier, to say to the paralytic,

'Your sins are forgiven,'

or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?

But that you may know

that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"

–he said to the paralytic,
"I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."
He rose, picked up his mat at once,
and went away in the sight of everyone.
They were all astounded
and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Our Scripture Reflection

Of course they would say, "We have never seen anything like this." No one else ever had the power to both heal and forgive sins. And Jesus' power can bring forth the same response in our own day:

1. In an unforgiving world, an act of forgiveness in His name is amazing
2. In a society where the focus is so often on self, an act of feeding the poor is heartwarming
3. In a culture that is materialistic, to see believers pray "in His name" is quite inspirational

Yes, Jesus' way still has the power to inspire a sense of awe and wonder!

Food for your Journey

One thing I do in that book [Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel] is that I spend a whole chapter talking about the character of interpersonal learning. What did it mean to learn another person is opposed to learning things or learning facts? What are the moral and intellectual qualities involved in learning persons? And I found a great source for this in the pattern of learning that my wife and I have gone through over 20 years. How it is not simply coming to a fix on somebody, but it requires patience and creative fidelity and perseverance and so forth

For Christians, it's not simply a romantic notion, but is quite serious and literally true that when somebody walks through my door and I receive them and listen to them, I am learning about Jesus. So I try to take that perspective and then read the New Testament out of the perspective of the various witnesses to Jesus in the New Testament.

--New Testament scholar Luke Johnson, interviewed by Becky Garrison,
"Door Interview: Luke Johnson," The Door,

March-April 1999, 17.

A Prayer from the Heart

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

St. Teresa of Avila