



# Daily Reflections

**January 14, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **John 1: 35-42**

John was standing with two of his disciples,  
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God."

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,  
"What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —,  
"where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come, and you will see."

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,  
and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,  
was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,  
"We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —.

Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

"You are Simon the son of John;

you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Think about this question: What have you given up or sacrificed to follow Jesus? For most people it's simply a matter of signing on the dotted line or saying, "I do." For the early disciples, following Jesus meant sacrifice: giving up one's livelihood, ending friendship and family ties, traveling to unfamiliar and even dangerous places, etc. But they did it, and some even gave up their lives. What are we asked to give up in our day in order to follow Jesus? Perhaps the biggest sacrifice entails changing the way we live and think, in other words, to surrender our way to His way. And in a society that tends to follow the words of Frank Sinatra's famous song, "I did it my way", such a sacrifice can be significant. Are you ready?

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## Food for your Journey

In a subdivision in Nashville, Tenn., live David and Nancy Guthrie. They own no sheep or camels, but they have a late-model Infiniti and a wide-screen Sony TV. They would never lay claim to blamelessness, but they are regarded as upright and God-fearing among their friends, who place high value on those traits. Sometimes those friends compare the Guthries to Job.

The odds of carrying a recessive gene for a terrible disorder called Zellweger Syndrome are 1 in 160. The odds of two carriers meeting and having a child who suffers from the syndrome are about 1 in 100,000. David and Nancy, already the parents of a healthy son, Matt, drew that 1 in 100,000 chance, when 2 1/2 years ago Nancy gave birth to a severely disabled daughter named Hope, who struggled with life for 199 days. After Hope was found to have the ailment, David got a vasectomy. The odds of a woman's becoming pregnant after her partner has had the procedure are roughly 1 in 2,000.

"We're gonna have this baby," [Nancy says] glancing at her belly and then at the grave [where Hope is buried], "and we already know that's where he's gonna go." Her new child is due on July 16 [2001]. He will almost certainly be dead within a year.

In Job's 42nd chapter, Job, chastened, says to God, "My ears had heard of You; but now my eyes have seen You," and he surrenders his grievances. Where some readers see defeat, Nancy finds triumph. "God reveals Himself,"

she says, "and in that process Job's questions disappear." Here is the classic evangelical understanding: suffering is not an injustice, nor a punishment. Rather it is a harrowing invitation to a higher dialogue. Nancy has been working out some thoughts on paper lately. Job, she writes, "was blessed through his brokenness, by his restless pursuit of God. He had a new, more intimate relationship with God, one he could never have found without pain and sorrow."

"In the darkest of days," she writes, "we've experienced a supernatural strength and peace." Like Job, "we often cannot see the hidden purposes of God. But we can determine to be faithful and keep walking toward him in the darkness."

And so they do.

-David Van Biema, "When God  
hides his face," Time, July 6, 2001, 62-64.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace to surrender my life to You. Help me to live the words I pray, "Thy will be done." Amen