



Daily Reflections

January 16, 2018

Scripture

Mark 2: 23-28

As Jesus was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Pharisees were hypocrites! They were not concerned about the health and well being of Jesus and His disciples on that Sabbath day. Under the guise of piety they wanted to embarrass and humiliate Jesus for whom they had nothing but contempt. But Jesus set them straight. True faith manifests itself in love and mercy and never false piety.

Food for your Journey

This is why pure faith can often seem dangerously close to atheism, for faith rejects false piety. To enter the desert is to leave behind the false trappings of religion insofar as they keep us from facing reality. And that separation can be very painful, for the trappings will be associated with people, whose friendship and support we have come to value, but who, often without knowing it, are helping to preserve us in immaturity.

--Kenneth Leech,

Experiencing God

(San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985), 155.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill my heart with compassion and love so that I may always see and respond lovingly to the needs of others. Amen