



Daily Reflections

January 22, 2018

Scripture

Mark 3: 22-30

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and
"By the prince of demons he drives out demons."
Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,
"How can Satan drive out Satan?
If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.
And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand;
that is the end of him.
But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property
unless he first ties up the strong man.

Our Scripture Reflection

First it was His own family members thinking He was insane and now it's the religious leaders who accuse Him of being in league with Satan. Why all the hostile reactions to our Lord and Savior? He was the great "Disruptor". Jesus broke with the status quo by speaking as no one had spoken before and healing as no one else could. The problem with some of those who witnessed His amazing work? A stubborn latching on to a way that simply did not give new life. That's why Jesus frequently called people to repent, that is, to

change in a radical way. If they could do that then they would receive the Kingdom of God.

Food for your Journey

Even when we are at peace with God and feel at one with him, the difference between our human pettiness and his greatness as our Creator ought to devastate us. But we cannot let this recognition defeat us. Kierkegaard writes: "We need to put away our fears and stop living a life shielded against responsibility before the truth We must enter into a fullness of life where everything we do is done in relation to the eternal."

Grandiose as this sounds, it is really very simple. When our eyes are on the eternal, we will be motivated by love -- love for our neighbor, spouse, enemy and friend -- and we will seek to live in harmony with all people and all living things. "For if you do not love your brother, whom you can see, how can you love God, whom you cannot see?"

--Johann Arnold, Seeking Peace

(Farmington, Pennsylvania: The Plough

Publishing House, 1998), 232.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Remove my stubbornness of heart and lack of faith. Help me to be open to the power of Your Grace to transform me into the person You want me to become. Amen