



Daily Reflections

February 3, 2018

Scripture

Mark 6: 30-34

The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.

They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd,

his heart was moved with pity for them,

for they were like sheep without a shepherd;

and he began to teach them many things.

Our Scripture Reflection

There has been both a subtle and not so subtle rejection of Jesus and His Church in the public square for many years now. Through court decisions, protests and acts of religious discrimination, the Christian faith has been pushed into the private sector. We have a couple of generations of young people who do not know the Lord. No wonder sixty-four percent of Americans are on anti anxiety/anti depressant medications. So many are “like sheep

without a shepherd." However, Jesus is alive! But who will witness to Him. Will you?

Food for your Journey

Criminologist Byron Johnson of Lamar University in Texas complains that government will endorse everything from pet therapy to acupuncture for prisoners, but you'd better not mention God.

As an example, U. S. News & World Report, in its cover article on "The Faith Factor," illustrated the degree of government paranoia about religion by citing the sad case of Detroit's Joy of Jesus ministry. Here was a social program that offered job training along with Bible lessons, prayer and faith-centered discussions about the problems of life. Michigan officials, impressed with the ministry's success ratio, offered state funding with one condition -- give up the prayers and Bible study. The ministry reluctantly agreed.

The result? Where once the program had placed 60 percent of its students in jobs, the program's success rate after state backing began to approach zero. Eventually the ministry returned the state money and got back to its original mission.

-- U. S. News & World Report, 121,
September 9, 1996, 46-53.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, In a world that seems to have turned its back on You and Your Gospel, I ask that You increase my faith. Help me through my words and actions to let all people know that You are here for us. Amen