



Daily Reflections

February 7, 2018

Scripture

Mark 7: 14-21

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them,
"Hear me, all of you, and understand.

Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person;
but the things that come out from within are what defile."

When he got home away from the crowd
his disciples questioned him about the parable.

He said to them,

"Are even you likewise without understanding?

Do you not realize that everything
that goes into a person from outside cannot defile,
since it enters not the heart but the stomach
and passes out into the latrine?"

(Thus he declared all foods clean.)

"But what comes out of the man, that is what defiles him.

From within the man, from his heart,
come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder,
adultery, greed, malice, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.
All these evils come from within and they defile."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus sets the religious leaders and teachers straight on the origin of sinfulness. They, hypocritically, saw things “external” as what constituted sinful behavior. They put great emphasis on appearances. So often they criticized Jesus for performing works of mercy such as healing on the Sabbath. Why? Because in their thinking He did not follow the words of the Law. What they overlooked was the pettiness, envy and hatred in their hearts that was at the root of their criticism. Jesus teaches that the human heart is the source of all sinful thinking and behavior.

Food for your Journey

Give me the love that leads the way,
the faith that nothing can dismay,
the hope no disappointments can tire,
the passion that will burn like fire.

Let me not sink to be a clod.

Make me thy fuel, flame of God!

--Augustine.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I anticipate the season of Lent, give me the courage to look deeply into my heart. Give me the Grace to purge those areas where darkness exists. May I fully respond to Your call to repent. Amen