



Daily Reflections

February 16, 2018

Scripture

Isaiah 58: 1-9

Thus says the Lord GOD:

Cry out full-throated and unsparingly,
lift up your voice like a trumpet blast;

Tell my people their wickedness,
and the house of Jacob their sins.

They seek me day after day,
and desire to know my ways,

Like a nation that has done what is just
and not abandoned the law of their God;

They ask me to declare what is due them,
pleased to gain access to God.

"Why do we fast, and you do not see it?
afflict ourselves, and you take no note of it?"

Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits,
and drive all your laborers.

Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting,
striking with wicked claw.

Would that today you might fast
so as to make your voice heard on high!

Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:

That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer,
you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!

Our Scripture Reflection

Isaiah is called by God to make His people aware of their hypocrisy. While they say they are obedient to God, their hearts are not invested in sincere change. Therefore, God will ignore their seemingly pious acts until which time they get real about their worship of God.

Food for your Journey

To see the calculated apology in one of its more blatant forms, go to a Web site named "Mark's Apology Note Generator" (www.karmafarm.com/formletter.html). There, whoever Mark is has supplied a form letter with all sorts of mix-and-match phrases in drop-down menus to quickly compose a note of apology to almost everybody with as little effort as possible. An explanatory note on the site tells visitors, "Love, marriage and relationships can be difficult. Sometimes, all it takes is an apology. I've resorted to using this simple form for all my butt-kissing needs." Given that attitude, does the apology count?

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Cleanse my mind and heart of all that prevents me from worshipping You with true love and devotion. May my heart be motivated by a genuine love for You. Amen