



Daily Reflections

February 25, 2018

Scripture

Mark 9: 2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.
As they were coming down from the mountain,
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Our Scripture Reflection

There is an old Latin proverb that says, "Only God can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." The Apostles and the great Saints throughout Christian history all gave witness to this wonderful truth. It's amazing what God's Grace can do even for a sinner like myself. May we be granted during this Lenten season a "Transfiguration" experience.

Food for your Journey

The founder of the Central City Mission in Jacksonville, Florida, Robert Bateman, was a minister who was not afraid to get his hands dirty in the service of Christ. Bateman came from England to personally lay the bricks of the mission in the city where drunken sailors poured into tattoo parlors, bars and whorehouses.

While sharing the Gospel, he provided thousands of meals, clothed the needy, visited those in jail and housed the homeless. He was called "the man who distributed more human sunshine than any other in Jacksonville."

A desperate letter from a girl employed in a house of ill repute prompted Bateman to return to England to study methods of Christian social work.

During a tour investigating the hotbeds of iniquity in London, the doctor also preached in revival services in English churches. On the return voyage to America, he conducted the only religious service aboard a ship of 2,207 people, concluding with his favorite hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee."

That night at 11:45 p.m. the ship Titanic struck an iceberg.

As Bateman escorted his sister-in-law to a lifeboat he said, "Don't be nervous, Annie. This will test our faith. I must stay and let the women go. If we never meet again on this earth, we will meet again in heaven." He threw his handkerchief into the descending lifeboat saying, "Put that around your throat. You'll catch cold."

Dr. Bateman collected about 50 men on the stern of the ship and told them to prepare for death. He led them in saying the Lord's Prayer and as the band played his favorite hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee," the great ship slid underwater.

The movies and books about the Titanic end with death. Robert Bateman, until his last breath, carried people to life. May we do the same.

-Worldscope Electronic Magazine, August 1999, www.churchlink.com.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Your Transfiguration serves as a precursor to the glory that awaits those who are faithful to You. During this Holy season may I receive the Grace to turn away from my sinful ways and to turn my life to You. Amen