



Daily Reflections

March 1, 2018

Scripture

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed is the man who trusts in human beings,
who seeks his strength in flesh,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

He is like a barren bush in the desert
that enjoys no change of season,
But stands in a lava waste,
a salt and empty earth.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose hope is the LORD.

He is like a tree planted beside the waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream:

It fears not the heat when it comes,
its leaves stay green;

In the year of drought it shows no distress,
but still bears fruit.

More tortuous than all else is the human heart,
beyond remedy; who can understand it?

I, the LORD, alone probe the mind
and test the heart,

To reward everyone according to his ways,
according to the merit of his deeds.

Our Scripture Reflection

God speaks a profound but unpleasant Truth through the Prophet Jeremiah. Yes, humans can be fickle, unfaithful and mean, but God is always faithful and good to His people. Trusting in God, though not always easy, proves to be the wise stance OVER TIME. Jeremiah will learn this lesson as he is eventually vindicated by the Lord God.

Food for your Journey

Prayer is, fundamentally, an exercise in trust. Dale A. Matthews, associate professor of medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and senior fellow at the National Institute for Healthcare Research, writes in his latest book, *The Faith Factor*, "Our prayers, of course, may not be answered in the ways we would prefer. Theologians have written volumes on how to understand this reality, and I will not attempt to summarize their findings. For me, it is helpful to remember what C.S. Lewis wrote about unanswered prayer in a letter to a friend: "If God had granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?"

Spiritual maturity involves trusting that God will answer our prayers according to our real needs as he sees them, and not as we, with limited vision, see them After all, the ultimate goal of prayer is not to get our needs met or to get what we want; it is to draw us nearer to God."

--Dale A. Matthews, *The Faith Factor* (New York: Viking, 1998), 219.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things. Amen