



Daily Reflections

March 6, 2018

Scripture

Daniel 3: 25, 34-43

Azariah stood up in the fire and prayed aloud:

“For your name’s sake, O Lord, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.

Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,
Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,
To whom you promised to multiply their offspring
like the stars of heaven,
or the sand on the shore of the sea.

For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
brought low everywhere in the world this day
because of our sins.

We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

But with contrite heart and humble spirit
let us be received;

As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bullocks,
or thousands of fat lambs,

So let our sacrifice be in your presence today
as we follow you unreservedly;

for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.

And now we follow you with our whole heart,

we fear you and we pray to you.
Do not let us be put to shame,
but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.
Deliver us by your wonders,
and bring glory to your name, O Lord.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Martyrs throughout history knew one important Truth: Death lasts a moment but our relationship to God lasts forever. Azariah, even in the midst of his suffering praises God! Martyrs are the most humble people. They know God, not their torturers, is in control and that their death is a way of bringing glory to God. In our country we will most likely never face martyrdom. However, there are times when we will be called upon to witness to our God. It will cost you. But what choice do you as a believer really have?

Food for your Journey

A man had fought for five years in the Polish underground during World War II. But when the war ended, he was captured by the Russian army and had to stand trial for war crimes, collaborating with the Nazis. Fifteen out of the 16 men captured with him broke under the pressure, but he didn't break, even after being questioned for 69 out of 70 nights. His tormentors examined what he had done or hadn't done over and over again: his work, his marriage, family, church and community life.

The interrogators advised him to plead guilty so they could lessen his sentence; otherwise, he would die. But the man refused. He said he hadn't been a traitor and could not confess something he hadn't done. He pleaded "not guilty" at his trial and because of the foreign observers there, he was eventually freed. Many were impressed with the natural way he witnessed to his Christian faith. He kept his faith alive with prayer, and all other loyalty was secondary to his loyalty to Christ.

When his accusers pointed out his weaknesses, he freely admitted them. He daily presented himself to God and his accusers in absolute honesty. "When they showed me a coward, I already knew it. When they showed me a reflection of myself with all my inadequacies, I said to them, 'But gentlemen,

I am much worse than that.' For you see, I had learned it was unnecessary to justify myself. One had already done that for me -- Jesus Christ!"

--David A. Seamands,

Healing Grace (Wheaton, Ill.:

Victor Books, 1988), 121-22.

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, Please give me courage,

for perhaps I lack it more than anything else.

I need courage before men against their threats

and against their seductions.

I need courage to bear unkindness,

mockery, contradiction.

I need courage to fight against the devil,

against terrors and troubles, temptations,

attractions, darkness and false lights,

against tears, depression, and above all fear.

I need Your help, Lord. Amen