



Daily Reflections

March 13, 2018

Scripture

Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12

The angel brought me, Ezekiel,
back to the entrance of the temple of the LORD,
and I saw water flowing out
from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east,
for the façade of the temple was toward the east;
the water flowed down from the right side of the temple,
south of the altar.

He led me outside by the north gate,
and around to the outer gate facing the east,
where I saw water trickling from the right side.

Then when he had walked off to the east
with a measuring cord in his hand,
he measured off a thousand cubits
and had me wade through the water,
which was ankle-deep.

He measured off another thousand
and once more had me wade through the water,
which was now knee-deep.

Again he measured off a thousand and had me wade;
the water was up to my waist.

Once more he measured off a thousand,
but there was now a river through which I could not wade;
for the water had risen so high it had become a river

that could not be crossed except by swimming.
He asked me, "Have you seen this, son of man?"
Then he brought me to the bank of the river, where he had me sit.
Along the bank of the river I saw very many trees on both sides.
He said to me,
"This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah,
and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh.
Wherever the river flows,
every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live,
and there shall be abundant fish,
for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh.
Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow;
their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail.
Every month they shall bear fresh fruit,
for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary.
Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine."

Our Scripture Reflection

Water is extremely scarce in the desert regions around Israel. Ezekiel's vision of a future when water would not just flow but would gush out of the Holy Temple was incredibly exciting for the devastated people. That God would do such a thing for them was a cause for joy. For the Christian, Ezekiel's vision is a reminder of what God's Grace can do for our tired and weary souls which are parched and dry due to our sins. What an incredible cause for hope!

Food for your Journey

I love to watch students come alive. One of the courses I teach is freshman English, and that's a place where you can empower people. They often come to you beaten down. All anyone had done was tell them how bad they were in English. You try to encourage them to write about who they are, to talk about who they are, and you show some interest in them. You show them that they have something interesting in their lives. They're people.

Before I pass back their first graded paper, I give them a little speech: "This grade is not for you. This grade is for a piece of work you turned in."

Then I ask them if they want to know what I think of them, and usually they want to. So I continue, "I think you're made in the image of God and of inestimable worth. There's no way anything I could put in my grade book could ever begin to estimate you."

I learned to do this after I read Flannery O'Connor's story about the boy who went up in the attic and drew a circle with a big "F" in the middle because he hadn't been doing well in school, and hanged himself over the "F." He didn't distinguish between the grade he was getting and who he was.

For me, the meaning of life is to share with people the wonderful news that we are the daughters and sons of God.

-Virginia Mollenkott, "What Gives You Faith?" Questions of Faith (Philadelphia: Trinity Press International, 1990), 88.

God likes to watch his sons and daughters come alive.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, I am Your humble servant, I come before You today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless, there are times when I feel weak because of my sins. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Help me, Lord. Amen