



Daily Reflections

March 18, 2018

Scripture

John 12: 20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew;

then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,

and whoever hates his life in this world

will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?

'Father, save me from this hour'?

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;
but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
Jesus answered and said,
"This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.
Now is the time of judgment on this world;
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself."
He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel text prepares us for the next major section of John's Gospel found in Chapters 13-20 known as "The Book of Glory." Why is the Word "Glory" used to describe this section? Because Jesus' Suffering, Death and Resurrection are seen as one act that will bring Glory to His Heavenly Father. After all, He was sent to save His people. As He heads to Calvary Jesus is ready for what lies ahead. He did not come into this world to escape death but to conquer it for us.

Food for your Journey

Once, a pastor was visiting an elderly woman who was receiving hospice care at home. She was having a tough time of it. Out of the blue, she remarked, "It must have been very hard for him."

"Hard for whom?" the pastor responded, not sure she was in her right mind.

"Jesus," she said. "It must have been very hard for him to be nailed to a cross."

There this woman lay: flat on her back, in frailty and pain. One would expect her to complain about her condition, or share some detail of how her day had been. Yet, such concerns were trivia. She had more important things on her mind.

She had been lying there meditating on the crucifixion of Jesus. It wasn't even Good Friday, and she was thinking of the cross.

Some visitors might try to move her thoughts to happier, more therapeutic topics, to encourage her to practice "the power of positive thinking."

Yet, who are we to tell her that -- we who, unlike her, can come and go at will and live free from pain? For this sorely afflicted woman, meditating on the death of Jesus was an act of sheer faith. Maybe it's only when we ourselves are so afflicted that the words "he descended into hell" clothe themselves in their full meaning and power.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You suffered an agonizing death for the salvation of my soul. How unworthy I am of such a gift. Lord, help me to realize how my sins sadden You and reject Your love. As I ponder Your sacrifice, motivate me with Your tender love to change my life and make all of my ways pleasing to You. Amen