



Daily Reflections

March 26, 2018

Scripture

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
Upon whom I have put my Spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
Not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
Until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spreads out the earth with its crops,
Who gives breath to its people
and spirit to those who walk on it:
I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
To open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Our Scripture Reflection

In his "Suffering Servant" text, Isaiah forecasts the life of the faithful and humble One who would give His life for us all. The death of the suffering One is seen exclusively as an act of humble and loving service. Because His life is given in love, He is humble, trusting. His death has the power to bring healing and redemption to all.

Food for your Journey

In the [Bob Dylan] song, "When the Deal Goes Down," we see the prophet as a vulnerable traveler, lost like Dante in the deep forest of night:

In the still of the night, in the world's ancient light

Where wisdom grows up in strife

My bewildering brain, toils in vain

Through the darkness on the pathways of life ...

We live and we die, we know not why ...

God speaks this to the bewildered pilgrim: I'll be with you when the deal goes down.

What's "the deal" going down? It is mortality and death. Cancer, heart disease, plane crashes, terrorism and the threat of nuclear holocaust. Preachers and prophets don't speak of death as "the deal," but old bluesmen do. In the plain and repetitive tones of the blues, Dylan has rediscovered a mode of speaking that enables him to communicate not with irony but rather with the authority of the prophet spreading his message of God's undying love for all times and for all people.

—John Tintera, "A prophet sings the blues," Explorefaith.org Web site, www.explorefaith.org.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, How can I possibly say "Thank You" for all that You endured for me? I have profound remorse for the sins I have committed against Your

love. Heal and forgive me, Lord. Help me to show my gratitude by living Your Gospel faithfully, despite the cost. Amen