



Daily Reflections

April 8, 2018

Scripture

John 20: 19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."
Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."
Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,

and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?"

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may come to believe

that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Our Scripture Reflection

Thomas like the rest of the disciples had succumbed to the scandal of the cross. How could anyone believe that the One who had fed 5000 and walked on water yet Who suffered an agonizing death on the cross could have been raised from the dead? However, when confronted by the Risen Lord and challenged to touch and probe Thomas does not touch and probe. Instead, he falls down in humility and utters one of the most profound statements about the Lord to be found in all of scripture: "My Lord and My God". As quickly as his faith in Jesus had crumbled how much more rock solid did his Easter faith become, so much so that the former doubter would go on to lay down his life for the Lord. What a turnaround story!

Food for your Journey

We are, all of us, children of faith. We have been conceived and birthed, generated and summoned, given life by this faith and none other. Faith keeps having its way among us. We must come to terms with it. We spend our lives struggling with faith, sometimes struggling for faith, sometimes struggling against faith. Faith always has its say among us: It will not go away. Its voice is a haunting one. And in it we hear the very voice of God: majestic sovereignty, awesome holiness, passionate grace, weakness made strong. We have haunted lives filled with yearnings for what is not in hand, promises not yet filled, commands not yet obeyed, desires not yet granted, neighbors not yet loved. And because faith will not go away or be silent, we are destined to be endlessly haunted, uneasy, restless, on the way.

--Walter Brueggemann

If Christ spent an anguished night in prayer, if He burst out from the Cross, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' then surely we are also permitted doubt. But we must move on. To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation. -Yann Martel

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious God, I thank You and praise You for raising Your Son Jesus from the dead. Please remove all worry, fear and anxiety that I have about death and eternal life. Replace them with a rock solid faith and trust in Your power and desire to save even me. Amen.