



Daily Reflections

April 20, 2018

Scripture

Acts 9: 1-20

Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him

for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

He said, "Who are you, sir?"

The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do."

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one.

Saul got up from the ground,

but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing;

so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus.

For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias,

and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias."

He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul.

He is there praying,
and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias
come in and lay his hands on him,
that he may regain his sight."
But Ananias replied,
"Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man,
what evil things he has done to your holy ones in Jerusalem.
And here he has authority from the chief priests
to imprison all who call upon your name."
But the Lord said to him,
"Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine
to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and children of Israel,
and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name."
So Ananias went and entered the house;
laying his hands on him, he said,
"Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me,
Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came,
that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes
and he regained his sight.
He got up and was baptized,
and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength.
He stayed some days with the disciples in Damascus,
and he began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues,
that he is the Son of God.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Scripture text gives us one of the most important events in history: The conversion of Paul. He had been a murderer of Christians, that is, until the Risen Christ spoke to him. After being forgiven and filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul would go on to become the greatest missionary in history. He would single-handedly carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to the then known ends of the earth...Rome(Acts 1:8). What a turn around story!

Food for your Journey

George Eliot was the pen name of English novelist Mary Anne Evans. She has a telling phrase in one of her books: "It's but little good you do, watering last

year's crop." Think of a farmer who's survived a devastating year of drought. The fields are filled with dried-up, stunted stubble of last year's corn. If the farmer were to go out and irrigate that land, in hopes of making that which is dead grow again, it would be lunacy.

Yet isn't that what many of us do in our lives, with the things we feel unreasonably guilty about? Better, by far, to write off last year's crop, to plow it under, to sow the furrows afresh for the season ahead.

There comes a time for letting go of guilt, for turning it over to the Lord.

A, Prayer from the Heart

Merciful Father, Nothing is impossible for You. Your ways go beyond what our minds can comprehend. Lord, as You found a former murderer worthy to be Your messenger, please use me, a sinner, to do Your good work. May my life give You glory and honor and praise. Amen