



Daily Reflections

May 4, 2018

Scripture

John 15: 5-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus' words in this Gospel passage are always very moving to me... "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Of course I think of the many men and women in our military and law enforcement services who have taken the Lord's words literally. Our wonderful country is great because of their sacrifice. What's the lesson for us in these words? Love is a decision, not merely a feeling. To love as Jesus loves is a choice. This is true, Christ-like love.

Food for your Journey

Mary Ann Bird wrote a short story entitled "The Whisper Test." It is a true story from her own life.

"I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I must look to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth and garbled speech.

"When schoolmates would ask, 'What happened to your lip?' I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me.

"There was, however, a teacher in the second grade that we all adored -- Mrs. Leonard by name. She was short, round, happy -- a sparkling lady. Annually, we would have a hearing test. I was virtually deaf in one of my ears; but when I had taken the test in past years, I discovered that if I did not press my hand as tightly upon my ears as I was instructed to do, I could pass the test. Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something and we would have to repeat it back ... things like, 'The sky is blue' or 'Do you have new shoes?' I waited there for those words which God must have put into her mouth, those seven words which changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, 'I wish you were my little girl.'"

--As told by Spencer Morgan Rice,

"The Drama of God,"

Trinity Church,

Boston.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You revealed the meaning of True Love while You were on the cross at Calvary. You chose to lay down, Your life for me. May I show my

gratitude by loving as You love as I put the needs of others before my own.
Amen