



Daily Reflections

May 11, 2018

Scripture

John 16: 20-23

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn,
while the world rejoices;

you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived;
but when she has given birth to a child,
she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy
that a child has been born into the world.

So you also are now in anguish.

But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy away from you.

On that day you will not question me about anything.

Amen, amen, I say to you,
whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."

Our Scripture Reflection

The transformation that took place in the disciples after Pentecost was stunning. Former doubters and cowards became courageous heroes for the faith. There is an old Latin saying that says, "Only God can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

Food for your Journey

In the final stage of life, what I call the "I Am Who I Am" goal, you know your body is not you of itself; you have found your soul and been contacted by Spirit. You do not need to protect your external self, roles, money or status symbols. You do not need to promote them or prove them to anyone. You can even let go of your image of being superior in any way: a holy person, more moral than others, smarter, an advanced or enlightened person in any sense. You know that whatever has happened to you is all God's work and you have merely been the lucky recipient. You did not do it; it was done to you. You do not waste time admiring yourself; it takes most of your time to admire the God who has done this to you and for you and as you. ...

Saint Francis said he wore a patched robe because he wanted to appear to others exactly as he was on the inside -- wounded and weak -- as we all are if we are honest. He had faced his broken self and it was precisely there that he met the most unconditional of loves. God uses everything, you see, even and especially our mistakes. Saint Augustine said the same: "In my deepest wound I found you, Lord, and it dazzled me."

--Richard Rohr, Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation for December 15, 2014, adapted from The Art of Letting Go: Living the Wisdom of Saint Francis, disc 5 (CD).

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You know all of my weaknesses and shortcomings. My sins are ever before Your eyes. Yet You continue to love me enough to give me the Grace I need to change and do Your work in this world. Help me, Lord, to become the person You created me to be. Amen