



# Daily Reflections

**May 13, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Acts 1: 1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them  
by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for "the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."  
When they had gathered together they asked him,  
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"  
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, "Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

---

## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Just when all seemed so pitifully lost on Calvary, Jesus' resurrection changed everything. Even though His mission was to return to the Father, He assigned a mission to His disciples....to take the Gospel "to the ends of the earth." That commission is meant for us today. Each of us is called to be His witness everywhere and at all times.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

Too many churches treat mission and outreach today as if they were agencies of the United Way. Churches are not grant-making foundations. They are centers for the mission of Jesus Christ in the wider world.

Truth is, outreach is not a program of the church. It is an outgrowth of our life in Christ, a recognition that outreach is the outward life of our prayer and worship, the symbol of the richness of God working in our lives. When we focus upon outreach as reaching outwardly from our sacramental life, our work in the world takes on new dimensions and perspectives. We cease to prop up the social order through grants and begin to transform and transfigure the world through Christ's kingdom "coming very near us."

I often say that a church will only reach outwardly as far as it reaches inwardly. If we expect our outreach to be more than "Wow, I went to a foreign land and realized how lucky I am," we must do the hard and difficult work of reconciliation in our own hearts in conjunction with our reconciling work in the world. There is no other way to Christlike mission.

Missional churches not only embrace this truth, they celebrate it. They dare to tell the story of their own lives in order to give voice to others, going to

places where Good Friday is still the average 24-hour day and Easter light comes just moment by moment.

--Michael Sullivan

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, It seems the Church today has forgotten that we began as a people on mission and are called to be today a people on mission. Pour forth Your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may carry out the good work You have assigned to us. May all people come to know You as the One, True Lord. Amen