



Daily Reflections

June 3, 2018

Scripture

Mark 14: 12-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,
Jesus' disciples said to him,

"Where do you want us to go
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them,
"Go into the city and a man will meet you,
carrying a jar of water.

Follow him.

Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,
'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'

Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.
Make the preparations for us there."

The disciples then went off, entered the city,
and found it just as he had told them;
and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, gave it to them, and said,
"Take it; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,
and they all drank from it.

He said to them,
"This is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed for many.
Amen, I say to you,
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
Then, after singing a hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Our Scripture Reflection

In our Gospel text from Mark we see the power and depth of Jesus' love for us. Before He went to Calvary, He let His disciples know exactly what He intended to do: Give everything for those whom He loved. That's perfect, sacrificial love. How do we show our gratitude for such an undeserved gift? By loving His people in a sacrificial manner in imitation of Our Lord.

Food for your Journey

Because the church [in the ancient world] asked much of its members, it followed that it gave much. Because Christians were expected to aid the less fortunate, they could expect to receive such aid, and all could feel greater security against bad times. Because they were asked to nurse the sick and dying, they, too, would receive such nursing. Because they were asked to love others, they in turn would be loved.

In similar fashion, Christianity mitigated relations among social classes, and at the very time when the gap between rich and poor was growing. It did not preach that everyone could or should be socially or politically equal, but that all were equal in the eyes of God, and that the more fortunate had a responsibility to help those in need.

-Rodney Stark, "The Early Church's Health Plan," Christianity Today, June 15, 1998, 54.

A Prayer from the Heart

My Precious Father, How I praise and thank You for Your many and great blessings that You have showered over us all, despite our foolish ways and sinful pride. How great You are, and what a gracious God that You should

care for me despite my manner towards You and others at times. Thank You Father for Your everlasting love. May I grow more and more to be like Your Son. I ask that You continue to guide and teach me in all that I say and do, and that I may do all according to Your will. I ask You to continue to pour our Your blessings and mercy on me and my family. Amen.