



Daily Reflections

June 19, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 5: 43-48

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you,

that you may be children of your heavenly Father,

for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,

and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?

Do not the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet your brothers only,

what is unusual about that?

Do not the pagans do the same?

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Our Scripture Reflection

How in this world can we possibly be as perfect as our incredibly perfect Father in Heaven? The Greek word used in Matthew's text, *teleioi*, means to be brought to completeness. And how is this to happen given our weaknesses and sinfulness? Our Father in Heaven is the perfect model towards which we are all to grow and imitate in our daily living. While we can never be equal to God we must strive with the help of His Grace, however, to follow the example

of His Son who is perfect. When doing so seems difficult we must remember the words of that old Gospel hymn which says, "One day at a time Sweet Jesus."

Food for your Journey

Each of us knows of groups that are locked in conflict, sometimes over profound issues and sometimes over issues that are just plain silly. But the conflict is real, the divisions deep, and the consequences can often be devastating. If, however, all who are involved can agree to do no harm, the climate in which the conflict is going on is immediately changed. How is it changed? Well, if I am to do no harm, I can no longer gossip about the conflict. I can no longer speak disparagingly about those involved in the conflict. I can no longer manipulate the facts of the conflict. I can no longer diminish those who do not agree with me and must honor each as a child of God. I will guard my lips, my mind and my heart so that my language will not disparage, injure or wound another child of God. I must do no harm, even while I seek a common good.

--Reuben P. Job,

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, I am a sinner and very weak at times, but You are strong. You revealed Your strength by sending Your Son Jesus who remained faithful under all painful circumstances. When living Your way and finding myself stumbling due to weakness and temptation, make me humble and holy until which time You free me from my daily crosses. Amen