



Daily Reflections

June 20, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Take care not to perform righteous deeds
in order that people may see them;
otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.

When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets
to win the praise of others.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right is doing,
so that your almsgiving may be secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites,
who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners
so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door,
and pray to your Father in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.

They neglect their appearance,

so that they may appear to others to be fasting.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,
so that you may not appear to others to be fasting,
except to your Father who is hidden.
And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus teaches His disciples many times in the Gospels, and especially, in today's text to avoid hypocrisy. A true disciple must strive to live what he or she professes to believe. People who live like actors on the stage of life have no place in His Kingdom.

Food for your Journey

We don't mind having our TVs bombard us with reminders that we need to upgrade our lives. Oddly, though, in recent years some have resisted church services which include calls to confess our sins and so to become more like the God whose grandeur challenges us to become different people. Some today don't mind if Revlon tells them they could look prettier if they tried, but they don't like worship services that suggest the need for confession, and so reform. But so long as we live on this side of the new creation, we cannot encounter God without some sense of Isaiah's "Woe is me!" coming over us.

—Scott Hoezee

A Prayer from the Heart

Merciful Father, I want to be faithful to You, I want to live in imitation of Your Son, Jesus. Help me to pick up my cross today as He commands me and to carry it faithfully and courageously and without complaint. Amen