



Daily Reflections

June 28, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 7: 21-29

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Many will say to me on that day,

‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name?

Did we not drive out demons in your name?

Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’

Then I will declare to them solemnly,

‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them

will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words,

the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

for he taught them as one having authority,
and not as their scribes.

Our Scripture Reflection

Speaking out against false teachers and prophets who loved to use His name to garner the attention of would-be followers, Jesus teaches that only those who truly know Him by loving Him will receive His help. The true disciple is one who has built his or her life (house) on The Rock, Jesus Christ. That person will have no reason to fear anything or anyone.

Food for your Journey

I am a chaplain in a hospital where I serve folks in a unique cultural mix of urban and rural poor outside of a large metropolitan area. Yesterday we had three pediatric deaths -- all sudden and unexpected and from different families. This is not usual.

As I have thought about the intersection of these things I find myself reflecting on how praise / joy does not necessarily mean happy applause. Joy is a spiritual fruit, cultivated in hard soil, watered by hope and surviving when the sun has somehow scorched your heart. It takes root in faithfulness and community despite the environment, and the praise comes when -- unseen by those too far removed -- compassion, love, kindness and tenderness sing forth.

--Rev. Jensen, Chaplain, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, I commit my life to You this day. Help me to grow in my love for You. May I spend my time doing good for others in Your holy Name. Amen