



Daily Reflections

July 3, 2018

Scripture

John 20: 24-29

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But Thomas said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Our Scripture Reflection

For sure, Thomas doubted that His Lord could possibly have been raised from the dead after all of the suffering He had endured. The Cross was a scandal,

a stumbling block for all of the Apostles. But notice how he responds when Jesus challenges him to touch His sacred wounds. Thomas does not touch! He professes Jesus as His Lord and God. No one in the entire Bible does so except for Thomas. And, as sacred Tradition tells us, he will go on to lay down His life for Jesus as a martyr in India. Not bad for a former doubter!

Food for your Journey

We are, all of us, children of faith. We have been conceived and birthed, generated and summoned, given life by this faith and none other. Faith keeps having its way among us. We must come to terms with it. We spend our lives struggling with faith, sometimes struggling for faith, sometimes struggling against faith. Faith always has its say among us: It will not go away. Its voice is a haunting one. And in it we hear the very voice of God: majestic sovereignty, awesome holiness, passionate grace, weakness made strong. We have haunted lives filled with yearnings for what is not in hand, promises not yet filled, commands not yet obeyed, desires not yet granted, neighbors not yet loved. And because faith will not go away or be silent, we are destined to be endlessly haunted, uneasy, restless, on the way.

--Walter Brueggemann, in *The Clergy Journal*, May/June 2001.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Lord, When I find my faith being tested due to the trials I face, help me to pause and remember the many times throughout my life when You undoubtedly rescued me. May I take those powerful memories and use them as fuel for my faith. Amen