



Daily Reflections

July 5, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 9: 1-8

After entering a boat, Jesus made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven."

At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts?

Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—

he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

He rose and went home.

When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to men.

Our Scripture Reflection

Arrogance while not a sin, certainly led to the scribes' lack of faith in Jesus. They thought they knew Him; they thought they knew it all! Once again,

Jesus shuts them down through a manifestation of the power that only He possesses. Many praise God and come to faith because of Him.

Food for your Journey

Abraham was 100 years old, and his wife 90, when Isaac was given to them. It's recorded that he was strong in faith, giving glory to God because he believed God's promise.

Moses was 80 years old when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt. And when the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land, 85-year old Caleb said, "Give me the hill country. The giants are there, and the cities are great and fenced. But if the Lord will be with me I will drive them out." That's pretty good for 85. ...

I'm 73, but I'd love to finish up that way. There are some other examples. In [the] early Christian era, the aged Polycarp was burned at the stake. And at the last minute the Roman proconsul offered to spare his life, and said to him, "Swear, and I will release you. Revile Christ." Polycarp replied, "Eighty and six years have I served him and he never did me wrong, then how can I now blaspheme my King that has saved me."

That's a hero I can look to.

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A Prayer from the Heart

God our Father, You conquer the darkness of ignorance by the light of your Word.

Strengthen within our hearts the faith You have given us;

let not temptation ever quench the fire

that Your love has kindled within us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Amen