



# Daily Reflections

**July 7, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Matthew 9: 14-17**

The disciples of John approached Jesus and said,  
"Why do we and the Pharisees fast much,  
but your disciples do not fast?"

Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn  
as long as the bridegroom is with them?

The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,  
and then they will fast.

No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunk cloth,  
for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse.

People do not put new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined.

Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

---

## Our Scripture Reflection

Our Lord was not a rule breaker even though there were those who accused Him of this. In fact, He said, "I have not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it." (Matthew 5:17) Why did John's disciples complain because Jesus' disciples did not fast? Because they failed to understand that Jesus, not John the Baptist, was the true Messiah. He came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God and that was an occasion of celebration. John's disciples along with the Scribes and Pharisees failed to recognize and appreciate Who it was that was

in their midst. Unfortunately, many fail to appreciate the precious Presence of Our Lord in His Holy Word and Sacraments in our own day.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

Writes Brennan Manning in the book Ragamuffin Gospel: "Jesus spent a disproportionate amount of time with people described in the gospels as the poor, the blind, the lame, the lepers, the hungry, sinners, prostitutes, tax collectors, the persecuted, the downtrodden, the captives, those possessed by unclean spirits, all who labor and are heavy burdened, the rabble who know nothing of the law, the crowds, the little ones, the least, the last and the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In short, Jesus associated with ragamuffins."

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Lord Jesus, You are Emmanuel "God with us". You are with us in Your Holy Scriptures and in Your Blessed Sacraments. Open our eyes in faith to recognize Your Presence and may we never take Your Presence for granted. Amen