



Daily Reflections

Sunday 26, 2018

Scripture

John 6: 60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said,
"This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this,
he said to them, "Does this shock you?

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending
to where he was before?

It is the spirit that gives life,
while the flesh is of no avail.

The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe
and the one who would betray him.

And he said,

"For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this,

many of his disciples returned to their former way of life
and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe

and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Our Scripture Reflection

What a pathetic scene we have before us in today's Gospel reading. The materialistic and faithless crowd slowly leaves Jesus because they cannot accept His sacrificial language. How could He claim that He would give His Body and Blood for their food? But Peter got it right. Perhaps he didn't completely understand at that moment what Jesus was saying but at least He was open to learn: "Master to Whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". In our own day people are turning away from Jesus in significant numbers. Why? Because they believe science or technology or drugs or sex or philosophy or stuff is the answer. But they will discover if they survive their delusions that all those things may seem to satisfy initially, however, over the long haul they leave one feeling empty and disillusioned. Only Jesus, the Bread of Life can permanently satisfy our deepest longings.

Food for your Journey

Edward Judy notes that no doubt many of the disciples who walked away from Jesus didn't realize they needed shelter for their souls.

It's not too unlike people who continue to live under bridges when there's a dome village nearby. They may be unaware that such a remedy is available.

On the other hand, they may be living there, because they want to.

Some people choose Jesus, and some just walk away.

Along these lines, a story that Will Willamon tells comes to mind: There was a farmer who had barely managed to eke out a modest existence living off some awful farmland in South Carolina. He struggled year after year to get crops to grow on his land. Finally, after a particularly meager harvest, he gave up, sold his land, and went to work in a factory.

The new owner who bought this land noticed the poor vegetation on the property. He therefore didn't pay much for the acreage.

One day, walking over his property, he noticed a strange formation of white rock. He'd always been interested in geology. So, he chipped some of the rock and took it to a geologist friend for analysis. To make a long story short,

he eventually sold the property for millions. His land contained a huge deposit of a mineral used in the processing of aluminum and other metals.

One man walked away, unaware. Another man didn't.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, Only You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are the Bread of Life. May I always seek You and Your Holy Presence above all things for only You, Lord, can bring true Peace to my soul. Amen