



Daily Reflections

September 5, 2018

Scripture

Luke 4: 38-44

After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her.

He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her.

She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him.

He laid his hands on each of them and cured them.

And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God."

But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place.

The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them.

But he said to them, "To the other towns also

I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Our Scripture Reflection

To know someone's name in Jesus' day meant to have control over that person. Hence, Jesus silences the demon who calls Him "Son of God" as a demonstration of His power over evil. Ironically, those who are not possessed, including the disciples, have yet to call Him Son of God.

Food for your Journey

According to Reader's Digest, September 1998, Ted Turner called Christianity a "religion for losers ..." His reasoning was based in part on what we call "The Beatitudes."

His thinking is that any religion which asks its followers to be meek and merciful even in the face of oppression can only be a religion for losers. Sure, Jesus said, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven," but this reward in heaven business is "pie in the sky by and by" — what Marx called "opiate of the masses." No clear-thinking, 20th

century realist would buy these concepts, would they?

As a matter of fact, no self-respecting realist of the first century would embrace the lifestyle suggested by the Beatitudes. The Emperor Julian ("The Apostate") is reported to have said that he wanted to confiscate Christians' property so that they might all become poor and enter the kingdom of heaven.

Julian was a riot, wasn't he? A virtual first-century Ted Turner.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, You have blessed me with the gift of faith in You. In a society where so many people do not know You help me to witness with courage and love to Your powerful Presence in my life. Amen