



Daily Reflections

September 8, 2018

Scripture

Romans 8: 28-30

Brothers and sisters:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

Our Scripture Reflection

Our reading from Romans is one of the texts that we should all commit to memory, especially verse 28: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God." Why? Because we all experience the heartbreak that comes as the result of tragedy and injustice. So often people get angry with God. Some become bitter. Why is this stance not healthy?

1. Our anger indicates a real lack of humility. Our anger says in essence, "I know better than God and this or that should not have happened as it did."

2. As the title of a play said years ago: "Yo arms are too short to box with God." Cuss, fuss, spit and fume all you wish...this behavior will neither change the situation nor make you feel better. In fact, you will evolve from anger to bitterness.

Anger against God is an indication of the lack of a relationship with God. That's where we need to focus our energy. Growing closer to God's heart brings true Peace and serenity.

Food for your Journey

A dear friend and mentor is a military chaplain assigned to the Pentagon. He has been working with people in the rubble of that building, sorting the brick and steel from the broken bodies and hearts of lives dismembered by the violence of death. He told me last week in a phone conversation that the picture he can't forget is of a child's purse, a little handbag, found in the wreckage of the airliner and building. As I have thought about that little purse and the child, now lost, who carried it, the only legitimate question I know is, "Where was our compassionate God when this happened?"

I have no easy answer. It is hard to ask about God's love and compassion when faced with the reality of a little girl's purse. But God's compassionate and loving nature is exactly what we must ask about.

The meaning of the word compassion is "to suffer with." In this simple definition, we find direction. Where was our compassionate God when this happened? God was with us, suffering with the frightened in the doomed airliners and in the World Trade Center. God is with us, suffering with us, as we fear the future for children and ourselves. God is suffering from the hatred the terrorists feel toward us. God is suffering with them in their delusions.

--Lynn Orville

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, meek and humble of heart...make me heart like Your heart.
Amen