



Daily Reflections

September 10, 2018

Scripture

Luke 6: 6-11

On a certain sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered.

The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if he would cure on the sabbath

so that they might discover a reason to accuse him.

But he realized their intentions

and said to the man with the withered hand,

"Come up and stand before us."

And he rose and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them,

"I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath

rather than to do evil,

to save life rather than to destroy it?"

Looking around at them all, he then said to him,

"Stretch out your hand."

He did so and his hand was restored.

But they became enraged

and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Our Scripture Reflection

Many of the Pharisees and their scribes were rigid and scrupulous observers of the Law. There were 39 classes of Law that governed what work people could or could not do on the Sabbath. One of the Laws forbade works of healing. Yes, work involving the practice of medicine! Jesus' adversaries are laying in wait to see whether He will assist a man with a withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Jesus is not bashful about making His point. He calls the afflicted man up in front of the crowd and heals Him. The Pharisees and their scribes are enraged but Jesus makes His point clear: Mercy always trumps observance of the Law.

Food for your Journey

Fred Craddock tells the story of a missionary sent to preach the gospel in India near the end of World War II. After many months the time came for a furlough back home.

His church wired him the money to book passage on a steamer but when he got to the port city he discovered a boatload of Jews had just been allowed to land temporarily. These were the days when European Jews were sailing all over the world literally looking for a place to live, and these particular Jews were now staying in attics and warehouses and basements all over that port city.

It happened to be Christmas, and on Christmas morning, this missionary went to one of the attics where scores of Jews were staying. He walked in and said, "Merry Christmas."

The people looked at him as if he were crazy and responded, "We're Jews."

"I know that," said the missionary, "What would you like for Christmas?"

In utter amazement the Jews responded, "Why, we'd like pastries, good pastries like the ones we used to have in Germany."

So the missionary went out and used the money for his ticket home to buy pastries for all the Jews he could find staying in the port.

Of course, then he had to wire home asking for more money to book his passage back to the States.

Not surprisingly, his superiors wired back, asking what happened to the money they had already sent.

He wired that he had used it to buy Christmas pastries for some Jews.

His superiors wired back, "Why did you do that? They don't even believe in Jesus."

He wired back: "Yes, but I do."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill my heart with compassion so that like You I will never miss an opportunity to serve the needs of those who are hurting. Amen