



Daily Reflections

September 13, 2018

Scripture

Luke 6: 27-38

Jesus said to his disciples:

"To you who hear I say, love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek,
offer the other one as well,
and from the person who takes your cloak,
do not withhold even your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks of you,
and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.
Do to others as you would have them do to you.

For if you love those who love you,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners do the same.

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners lend to sinners,
and get back the same amount.

But rather, love your enemies and do good to them,

and lend expecting nothing back;
then your reward will be great
and you will be children of the Most High,
for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful.
"Stop judging and you will not be judged.
Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.
Forgive and you will be forgiven.
Give and gifts will be given to you;
a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing,
will be poured into your lap.
For the measure with which you measure
will in return be measured out to you."

Our Scripture Reflection

Many people upon reading the list of commands that Jesus gives His disciples in today's Gospel reading feel overwhelmed at the tasks. Let's face it...loving one's enemies, giving without expecting personal benefit, being merciful, especially to the ungrateful and not judging others are not easy behaviors to live. Jesus is not, however, setting us up for failure. He came to give His life for us. He wants us to enjoy eternal life with Him one day. The key to the challenge of living Jesus' commands is first to live His Beatitudes. The Beatitudes make our living of the Christian life not only possible but also peace-full.

Food for your Journey

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Shooting steel-tipped hunting arrows, Pace punctured bull's-eyes without a miss. Then he called for a volunteer. "All you have to do," said Pace, "is hold this apple in your hand, waist-high."

ABC correspondent Josh Howell took a bold step forward. He stood there, a small apple in his hand, a larger one in his throat. Pace took aim from 30 yards away as we all held our breath. Then THWACK—a clean hit that exploded the apple before striking the target behind.

Everybody applauded Howell, who was all smiles — until his cameraman approached with a hangdog look. "I'm sorry, Josh," he said. "I didn't get it. Had a problem with my viewfinder. Could you do it again?"

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I love You and I want to be faithful to Your desires. Help me to make Your way, the way of the Beatitudes, my way. Amen