



Daily Reflections

September 23, 2018

Scripture

Mark 9: 30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him,

and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”

But they did not understand the saying,

and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them,

“What were you arguing about on the way?”

But they remained silent.

They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,

“If anyone wishes to be first,

he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst,

and putting his arms around it, he said to them,

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me;

and whoever receives me,

receives not me but the One who sent me.”

Our Scripture Reflection

The Apostles were ashamed...they got caught! Jesus had just forecasted His terrible passion and death and they were not paying attention but instead were discussing who was the greatest among them. Clueless and shameful. To teach them a most important lesson on humility, Jesus points to a child. Why a child? Because children in Jesus' day were considered to be of little value unlike the way they are valued today. His message is pointed: Look upon yourself as of no value and then you will be great in the Kingdom of God.

Food for your Journey

Dear Other Parents at the Park:

Please do not lift my daughters to the top of the ladder, especially after you've just heard me tell them I wasn't going to do it for them, encouraging them to try it themselves.

I am not sitting here, 15 whole feet away from my kids, because I am too lazy to get up. I am sitting here because I didn't bring them to the park so they could learn how to manipulate others into doing the hard work for them. I brought them here so they could learn to do it themselves.

They're not here to be at the top of the ladder; they are here to learn to climb. ...

I don't want my daughters to learn that they can't overcome obstacles without help. I don't want them to learn that they can reach great heights without effort. I don't want them to learn that they are entitled to the reward without having to push through whatever it is that's holding them back and earn it.

Because -- and this might come as a surprise to you -- none of those things are true. And if I let them think for one moment that they are, I have failed them as a mother.

--Kate Bassford Baker, "Mom's plea: Please don't help my kids," Alameda Patch Website. <http://patch.com>. Retrieved March 30, 2015.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, For my eternal salvation, You humbled Yourself and accepted a horrifying death on the Cross...that's how much You love me. Lord, I am humbled by my sins that put You on the Cross. Forgive me and cleanse me, Lord. Help me to live as a person who is redeemed and loved by You. Amen