



Daily Reflections

October 12, 2018

Scripture

Luke 11: 15-26

When Jesus had driven out a demon, some of the crowd said:

"By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons,
he drives out demons."

Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven.

But he knew their thoughts and said to them,

"Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste
and house will fall against house.

And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?

For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons.

If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul,

by whom do your own people drive them out?

Therefore they will be your judges.

But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons,

then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

When a strong man fully armed guards his palace,
his possessions are safe.

But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him,

he takes away the armor on which he relied
and distributes the spoils.

Whoever is not with me is against me,

and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

"When an unclean spirit goes out of someone,

it roams through arid regions searching for rest
but, finding none, it says,
'I shall return to my home from which I came.'
But upon returning, it finds it swept clean and put in order.
Then it goes and brings back seven other spirits
more wicked than itself who move in and dwell there,
and the last condition of that man is worse than the first."

Our Scripture Reflection

Oh, how petty and foolish the religious leaders demonstrated themselves to be in their attack on Jesus. Why would Satan allow itself or its minions to be expelled from a possessed person? Jesus as we know was not Satan. He was the Messiah of God who came to defeat Satan and He did at the very touch of His finger. But we must remember: Satan wants our souls. As the "father of lies" it will do anything to win our allegiance. We must remain vigilant. We must work to become holy each and every day, how? By prayer and doing the work Jesus entrusts to us.

Food for your Journey

As you see more clearly that your vocation is to be a witness to God's love in this world, and, as you become more determined to live out that vocation, the attacks of the enemy will increase.

You will hear voices saying, "You are worthless, you have nothing to offer, you are unattractive, undesirable, unlovable." The more you sense God's call, the more you will discover in your own soul the cosmic battle between God and Satan.

Do not be afraid. Keep deepening your conviction that God's love for you is enough, that you are in safe hands, and that you are being guided every step of the way. Don't be surprised by the demonic attacks. They will increase, but as you face them without fear, you will discover that they are powerless.

What is important is to keep clinging to the real, lasting and unambiguous love of Jesus. Whenever you doubt that love, return to your inner spiritual home and listen there to love's voice. Only when you know in your deepest being that you are intimately loved can you face the dark voices of the enemy, without being seduced by them.

Only when your roots are deep can your fruits be abundant.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom* (Doubleday, 1996), 93-94.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, My Heart and soul belong to You. Help me, Lord, to stay steeped in prayer and devoted to the work that You have given me to do. May I keep my house clean and prepared for You at all times. Amen