



Daily Reflections

October 26, 2018

Scripture

Luke, 12: 54-59

Jesus said to the crowds,

“When you see a cloud rising in the west
you say immediately that it is going to rain—and so it does;
and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south
you say that it is going to be hot—and so it is.

You hypocrites!

You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky;
why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

“Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate,
make an effort to settle the matter on the way;
otherwise your opponent will turn you over to the judge,
and the judge hand you over to the constable,
and the constable throw you into prison.

I say to you, you will not be released
until you have paid the last penny.”

Our Scripture Reflection

I am humbled to call a Dear Friend one of the world’s finest meteorologists, Joe Bastardi. I stand in awe at his ability to use science, technology, his rich experience, common sense and FAITH to interpret the signals in the

environment which enable him to produce his weather forecasts. Joe will tell you that science and technology are tools used to assist his efforts. But ultimately, God is in control of it all. Joe's deep faith tells him that. In our Gospel reading, Jesus takes to task those who manifest a know-it-all attitude about many things in life such as building, finances, leadership, religious practices, the weather, but fail due to their lack of faith and humility to discern God's activity in the world, especially in the work of His Son Jesus. Jesus is just a man, just another preacher and teacher they think in their arrogance. Little did they know in their pride-filled hearts that God Almighty was present in Him. They claimed to know so much about every little thing but were clueless about what really mattered.

Food for your Journey

In his book *Your God Is Too Small*, J.B. Phillips, rips into the "meek and mild" vocabulary sometimes used about Jesus: "Why 'mild'? Of all the epithets that could be applied to Christ this seems one of the least appropriate. For what does 'mild,' as applied to a person, conjure up to our minds? Surely a picture of someone who wouldn't say 'boo' to the proverbial goose; someone who would let sleeping dogs lie and avoid trouble wherever possible; someone of a placid temperament who is almost a stranger to the passions of red-blooded humanity; someone who is a bit of a nonentity, both uninspired and uninspiring.

"This word 'mild' is apparently deliberately used to describe a man who did not hesitate to challenge and expose the hypocrisies of the religious people of his day: a man who had such 'personality' that he walked unscathed through a murderous crowd; a man so far from being a nonentity that he was regarded by the authorities as a public danger; a man who could be moved to violent anger by shameless exploitation or by smug complacent orthodoxy; a man of such courage that he deliberately walked to what he knew would mean death, despite the earnest pleas of well-meaning friends! Mild! What a word to use for a personality whose challenge and strange attractiveness nineteen centuries have by no means exhausted. Jesus Christ might well be called 'meek,' in the sense of being selfless and humble and utterly devoted to what he considered right, whatever the personal cost; but 'mild,' never!"

--J.B. Phillips, *Your God Is Too Small* (New York: Macmillan Paperbacks Edition, 1961), 27.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You came to inaugurate Your Father's Kingdom in this world. You are Emmanuel, "God with us." Help me to avoid the arrogance that exists in this world from those who have made gods of science and technology. I pray that their hearts may be converted so that they will become humble before You and know that You alone are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen