



Daily Reflections

October 27, 2018

Scripture

Luke 13: 1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

He said to them in reply,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener,

‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.

So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?'
He said to him in reply,
'Sir, leave it for this year also,
and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit in the future.
If not you can cut it down.'"

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus presents a teaching that few people care to hear: Time is a precious gift that we do not own, is beyond our control and can be taken away without prior notice. As disciples of Jesus we are called to use the time loaned to us wisely, prudently, and to His glory.

Food for your Journey

Some time ago, I was a guest at the home of a very powerful man and his very talented wife. Believe me, this man was in charge of a lot of important things and a lot of people. But once I got over being impressed by him, I began to feel a simmering sadness under the smooth surface of that home. Something felt wrong to me. So I said: "You must forgive me if I am being intrusive but I feel a sadness here in your house, a grief maybe. Am I right?" Yes, I was right. And they told me what the trouble was.

They had an 18-year-old daughter who had left home and was wandering around the country and nobody knew where or how she was surviving. No phone calls, no letters. "What in the world can we do?" this powerful man asked me.

"It seems to me," I said, "there is nothing you can do except the hardest thing of all, pray and wait."

"Ah," said this man who had so much power over so many important people, "Wait, yes, wait. But it is so hard, so hard to do nothing but wait." He's right.

--Lewis Smedes, "The Wisdom of Waiting,"

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, I was created by You to love You and serve You. Help me to rise above the distractions and demands in this life and to realize my first loyalty must always be to You. Bless me in my daily efforts to do so. Amen