



Daily Reflections

November 12, 2018

Scripture

Luke 17: 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Things that cause sin will inevitably occur,
but woe to the one through whom they occur.
It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck
and he be thrown into the sea
than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.
Be on your guard!
If your brother sins, rebuke him;
and if he repents, forgive him.
And if he wrongs you seven times in one day
and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,'
you should forgive him."
And the Apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus did not place us in the world as saints. He placed us in this world as people who with the help of His Grace and by following His example came hopefully become saints. As our Gospel reading indicates, living the life of

Christ can be a challenge. Sinning seems to be easier (and in some cases more pleasurable) than doing what we know is holy and right. That's why Jesus came: To forgive our sins, to teach us His way and to give us the Grace we need when we fall. He stands ready to forgive us provided our hearts are sincere and contrite. There's one catch, however. We are called to extend His forgiveness to those who sin against us. How often? As many times as it takes!

Food for your Journey

There is a story of a man named John (I just like the name). John was a faithful Christian but he had one problem, one vice in his character, that, try as he might, he could not seem to get rid of. He prayed fervently and daily, asking God that this vice may be taken away from him, so that he may be holy as God is holy.

One day, Jesus appeared to John in a vision. He told John of a huge boulder lying in a forest near where John stayed. Jesus told John to go to the boulder and push it with all his might. When the vision ended, John did exactly what he was told. He went into the forest, found the boulder just as he had been shown. And John leant his weight against it and pushed with all his might. But nothing happened. The boulder didn't even budge. And John was disappointed. It was late, so he decided to go home and try again the next day.

The next day, he went to the boulder again and pushed, and he pushed, and he pushed. But still nothing happened. After many days of pushing the boulder and not moving it, John brought this matter to prayer. "Why, Lord?" he asked. "Why can't I move the boulder?"

Jesus appeared to John again in another vision and the Lord said, "I never asked you to move the boulder. All I asked of you is that you push it with all your might."

And John finally understood. It was not so important for John to be rid of his vice, but it was more important that John made efforts to renounce this vice. Whether he succeeded or not was not important. What was important was that he tried.

—<http://catholicwriter.wordpress.com/2007/02/28/wednesday-february-28-push/>. Retrieved April 1, 2007.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As Paul said so frankly in Romans 7: 14: I do what I know I shouldn't do and I don't do what I know I should. Lord, when I behold Your wonderful Cross on which You hung for my salvation, I realize how my sins hurt your loving heart. Forgive me, Lord, and give me the Grace to change. Amen