



Daily Reflection

November 13, 2018

Scripture

Luke 17: 7-10

Jesus said to the Apostles:

"Who among you would say to your servant
who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field,
'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?

Would he not rather say to him,
'Prepare something for me to eat.

Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink.

You may eat and drink when I am finished'?

Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?
So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been commanded, say,

'We are unprofitable servants;
we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

Our Scripture Reflection

The idea of having a servant is foreign to we liberty loving Americans. But in ancient times it was commonplace. There was a clearly defined pecking order between the master and his servant. The servant was to be at his master's beck and call at all times. In fact, the mind of the servant was to be the mind of the master, anticipating his every desire and need. In this context Jesus' teaching makes sense. A servant would never expect a reward when simply

fulfilling his duty towards his master. So it should be teaches Jesus with the true disciple. No smelly stickers or trophies should be given to the disciple who is living the Commandments. That's what a servant of the Lord is expected to do.

Food for your Journey

When we move beyond the need to be recognized, we are free to experience the richness of the life God has given us. We experience this richness in different ways. Susan Griffin, poet and essayist, says that a meaningful life to her consists of "feeding your grandchild small spoonfuls of yogurt (and ice cream). Trying to use another language. Walking in the woods. Cooking vegetables just pulled from your garden. Ice skating. Smelling a wood fire. Eating olives. Whistling. Growing old."

Bo Lozoff, spiritual teacher and prison reformer, has another view: "In the enormous category of human experience, we tend to overlook the realm of practical and hands-on capability. My deepest and most joyful education has been learning how to build my house, plow the land, grow some food, get the stuck toast out of the toaster oven without getting electrocuted, fix my recliner without sending it back to La-Z-Boy, etc. Most Americans grow up long on concepts and short on skills. Human beings need to do stuff well. All kinds of stuff. That's a meaningful life."

--Cited in Utne Reader, May-June,
1998, 58.

A Prayer from the Heart

The Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.