



Daily Reflections

November 16, 2018

Scripture

Luke 17: 26-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be in the days of the Son of Man;
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage up to the day
that Noah entered the ark,
and the flood came and destroyed them all.
Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot:
they were eating, drinking, buying,
selling, planting, building;
on the day when Lot left Sodom,
fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all.
So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.
On that day, someone who is on the housetop
and whose belongings are in the house
must not go down to get them,
and likewise one in the field
must not return to what was left behind.
Remember the wife of Lot.
Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it,
but whoever loses it will save it.
I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed;

one will be taken, the other left.

And there will be two women grinding meal together;

one will be taken, the other left."

They said to him in reply, "Where, Lord?"

He said to them, "Where the body is,

there also the vultures will gather."

Our Scripture Reflection

Our Lord uses very vivid and disturbing language to describe the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. His key message is centered on the suddenness of His coming. There are no calculations possible or necessary. We know not WHEN but THAT He is coming. Our job as disciples is to be prepared as we do the work assigned to us.

Food for your Journey

The world is not divided up between those who are burdened by duty and those who are free of it. Anyone who is sensitive and good is burdened by duty. The world is divided up rather between those who are burdened with duty and are resentful about it and those who are burdened with duty and are not resentful about it.

That is very much the lesson of Gethsemane: What Jesus gave over to his Father in the garden is not perhaps so much his life, since his enemies were closing in on him and he might have had to die in any case, irrespective of any willingness or unwillingness on his part. Thousands of people die violently every day, against their will. There's nothing special in that. What's special in Jesus is how he prepared himself to meet that death, namely, by being willing to die without resentment, without putting a price-tag on it, without making anyone feel guilty about it, and with a heart that was warm rather than cold, forgiving rather than bitter and large and understanding enough that it didn't have to demand its due. In the face of bitter duty, he took his life and his love and made them a free gift.

--Ron Rolheiser, "Gethsemane: The Place to Give Up Resentment," The Catholic Herald, March 18, 2005.
<http://archive.catholicherald.co.uk/article/18th-march->

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, We lose sight of the fact that as Your disciples we have work to do. We are called to live Your Gospel every day. Help us to take seriously the work You have called us to do until You come in your glory. Amen